RIBON MASCOT COMICS

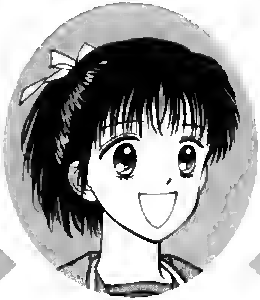
MARMALADE BOY【2】

吉住 渉

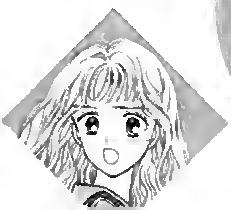
Introducing the Cast of Characters

Suzuki Arimi
Yuu's old girlfriend
Still likes Yuu

Matsuura Yuu
Shares same house with Miki. Looks cool, but is mean!?



Koishikawa Miki
Brightly spirited and simple (?) personality



Akizuki Meiko
Close friend of Miki
Her mysterious aspect is alluring

Suou Ginta
Miki's classmate
Tennis team

The story up thru (1)

Miki and Yuu came to live in the same house due to their parents announcing that they're swapping marriage partners. Miki gradually becomes attracted to Yuu, who sometimes displays sweetness despite being mean.

One day, Arimi, who was Yuu's former girlfriend, turns up saying that, "I still like Yuu."

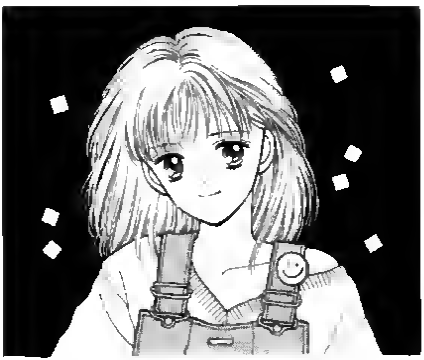
Meanwhile, Ginta was worrying about the relationship between Miki and Yuu. During 2nd year of junior high, Miki sent Ginta a love letter, but she saw Ginta passing that letter around for his friends to read, and suffered a great shock. But, at present, they're good friends.

However, one day, Ginta suddenly kissed Miki. All that had happened between them 2 years before was a misunderstanding. And then Ginta, who was waiting for Miki in front of her home, confessed that, "I've liked you all along, Miki." But...!?

I THOUGHT I HAD GIVEN UP ON YOU
LATELY, IT'S COME TO WHERE WE CAN TALK TO EACH OTHER LIKE OLD TIMES... AND SO, I THOUGHT THAT WAS ENOUGH
BUT... THAT GUY...
MATSUURA
APPEARED AND

MARMALADE·BOY

[2]



G-
GINTA ...
I ABSOLUTELY DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU UP!!
I...
DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU UP TO HIM!

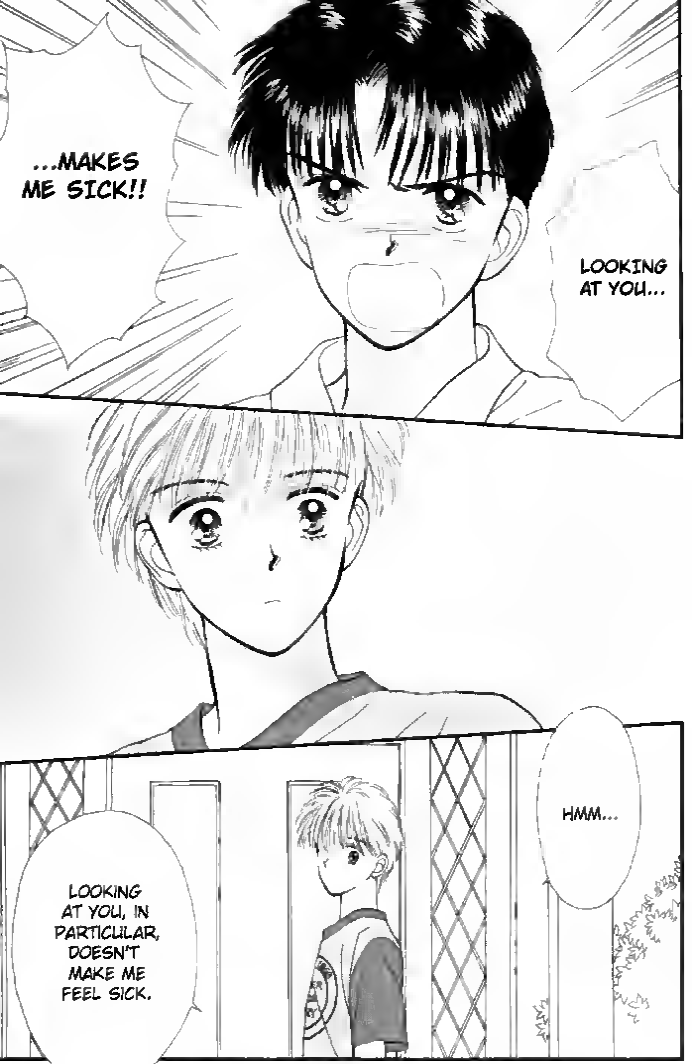
DO YOU LIKE MATSUURA?
AHH ...!
GRAB
WAIT A MIN ...
IS IT TOO LATE ALREADY !?
WAIT ...
GINTA ...
AM I NOT GOOD ENOUGH?

ANSWER ME, MIKI!
DO YOU LIKE HIM MORE THAN ME!?
LOOK AT ME!!
AH ...
GINTA.
THAT HUR.
YOU'RE SO LOUD.

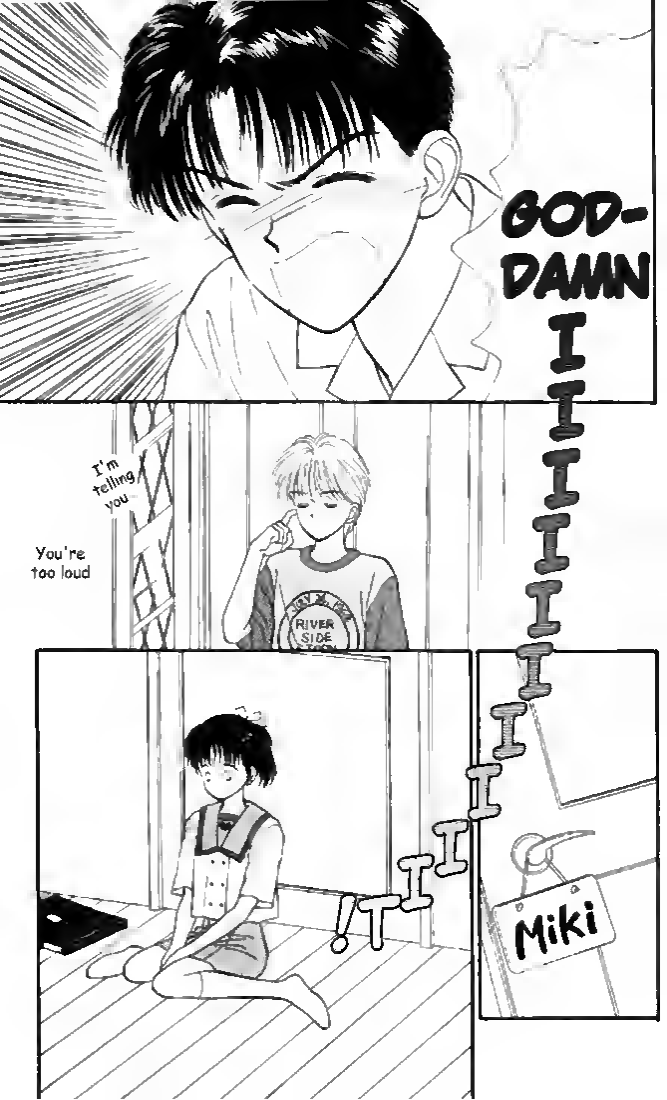
*TPO = Time/Place/Occasion

WOOSH
AH!
KAA
SLAM
MIKI ...!
ONLY 24 HOURS
RIVER SIDE STORY
I WAS THINKING THAT IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE YOU'D DUMPED MIKI IN A TERRIBLE WAY
I SEE.

CLANG
I GOT IT, I GOT IT...
BUT IT WASN'T INTENTIONAL, IT JUST HAPPENED THAT WAY, HUH?
He listened to it all from the beginning, chase the time and appeared, didn't he!
YOU... YOU BASTARRRD!!
WHAT IS IT ...?
HOLD IT, MATSUURA!!


...MAKES ME SICK!!
LOOKING AT YOU...
HMM...
LOOKING AT YOU, IN PARTICULAR, DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL SICK.

YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO'S NOT WORTH CONSIDERING
SLAM!
G...
G-
G-


GOD-
DAMN
I
I
I

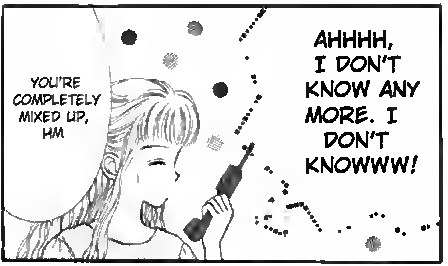
CAN'T BE-
LIEVE HE'D
START SAY-
ING SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT...
THUMP
THUMP
Wh
...
What'll
I do?
WHAT
ARE YOU
SHOUTING
FOR, GINTA
THUMP
WHAT'LL
I DO...!?

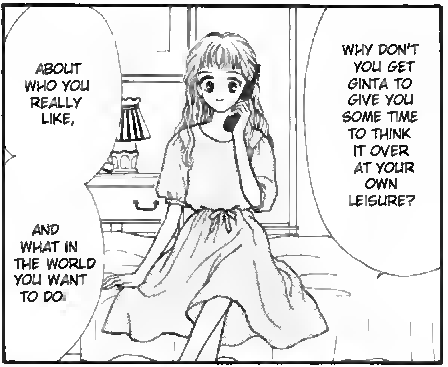
THAT'S
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
SEEN
GINTA,
WITH
SUCH AN
EXPRESSION
ON HIS
FACE

I SEE
...
SO
THAT'S
WHAT IT
WAS TWO
YEARS
AGO...

IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THE GINTA I KNOW.
I WAS SOME-WHAT FRIGHT-ENED
AND SO?
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO
HOW VAGUE
BUT I HAD DROPPED HIM FROM CON-SIDERATION AS A BOYFRIEND.
HE'S THE ONE WHO MADE ME DO THAT
BECAUSE
SURE, I LIKE GINTA AS A FRIEND

I DON'T KNOW...
AND TO BE TOLD TO LOOK AT THAT IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT WAY...!
NO, YOU'RE WRO...
REALLY?
THERE'S MATSUURA-KUN, TOO, RIGHT?
YOU'RE STARTING TO LIKE HIM, AREN'T YOU, MIKI.
SO, IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE ONE, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...?
I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE SO..
I don't want to admit it but
I.. I DON'T KNOW.


AHHHH, I DON'T KNOW ANY MORE. I DON'T KNOWWW!
YOU'RE COMPLETELY MIXED UP, HM


WHY DON'T YOU GET GINTA TO GIVE YOU SOME TIME TO THINK IT OVER AT YOUR OWN LEISURE?
ABOUT WHO YOU REALLY LIKE,
AND WHAT IN THE WORLD YOU WANT TO DO.

'KAY..
I SEE. I'LL DO IT THAT WAY.
THANKS, MEIKO ..

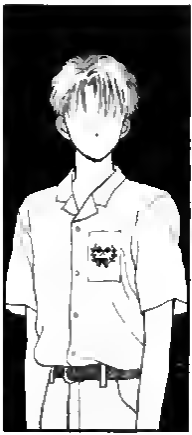
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
SLAM
YAHHH
YOU BATHED ALREADY?
SO EARLY
He hasn't said a thing about earlier
STUPID!
DID YOU WANT TO BATHE WITH ME?

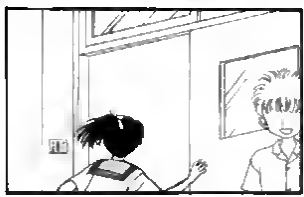
I wonder if...
...it doesn't matter to him
GINTA.

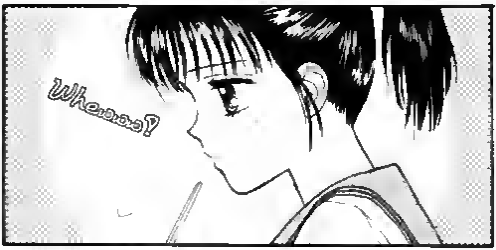
AHH...
YES.
IT'S ABOUT YESTERDAY
BECAUSE IT WAS KIND OF SUDDEN, I WAS SURPRISED
AND CONFUSED
AND SO... UMM.
WILL YOU LET ME THINK ABOUT IT FOR A BIT...?
THAT IS, KEEP THINGS JUST AS THEY WERE FOR NOW, UNTIL I'VE SORTED OUT MY FEELINGS ...
IS THAT OKAY?
OKAY.
I'LL WAIT.
YEAH
THANK YOU
whew!

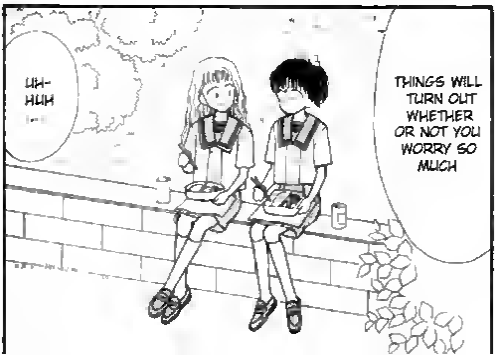
FREE TALK

Since I had quite a huge response when I wrote in "Marmalade" volume 1 about wrong characters in fan letters, I'm doing a bit of a follow-up. I forgot to write this the last time, but I also quite often see the mistake of "Gunta" > "Tetsuda."* The person who wrote that was also the prize winner of the March '93 issue illustration, but maybe my editor, who chose it, didn't notice, or maybe he was shooting for favor on purpose? In the most recent examples of wrong characters, what was most amazing was a "Miki" > "Miki"** one. Really, there was one where could that idea have come from...? Although, I can't be saying too much about others. It's also the case with me, writing wrong characters and later finding out and going, "Ah...!" If you come across one, laugh and let it pass, kay?



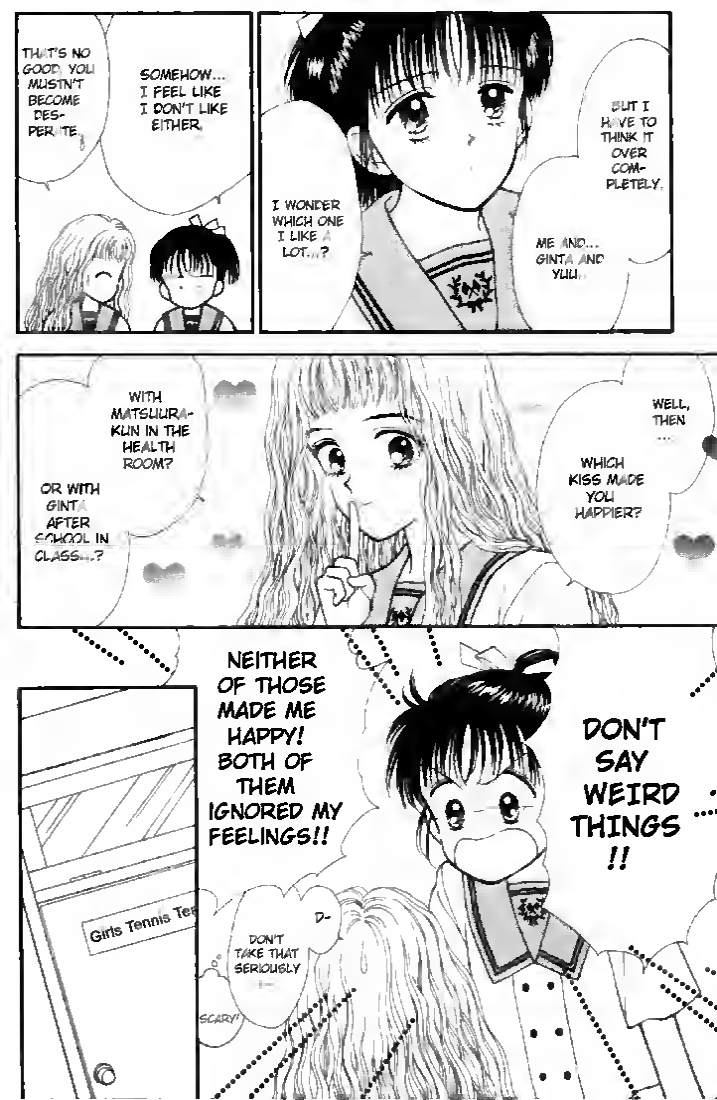






*NOTE <THE KANJI CHARACTER SWITCH HERE IS FROM THE CORRECT <GIN> = "SILVER" TO TETSU> = "IRON/STEEL." >

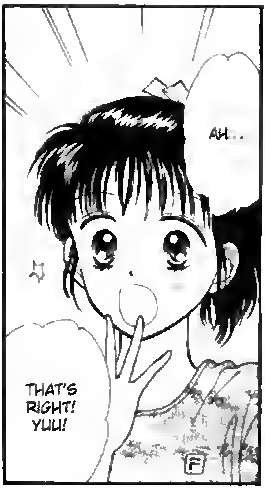
**NOTE <BOTH KANJI CHARACTERS <MI> AND <KI> WERE INCORRECT. THE ORIGINAL <MI KI> = "LIGHT + PRAY/HOPE-FOR" IS NOW "THREE + TREES" >


THAT'S NO GOOD. YOU MUSTN'T BECOME DES-PER-TE.
SOMEHOW... I FEEL LIKE I DON'T LIKE EITHER.
I WONDER WHICH ONE I LIKE A LOT...?
BUT I HAVE TO THINK IT OVER COM-PLETELY.
ME AND... GINTA AND YUU.
WITH MATSUURA-KUN IN THE HEALTH ROOM?
OR WITH GINTA AFTER SCHOOL IN CLASS...?
WELL, THEN ...
WHICH KISS MADE YOU HAPPIER?
NEITHER OF THOSE MADE ME HAPPY! BOTH OF THEM IGNORED MY FEELINGS!!
DON'T SAY WEIRD THINGS !!
Girls Tennis Tea
D-
DON'T TAKE THAT SERIOUSLY
SCARY!

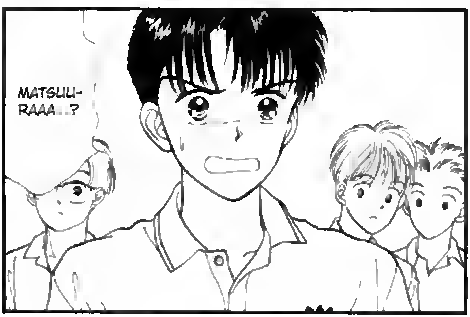
AAAHHH!
mutter JEEZ. THAT MEIKO mutter
CLACK
...
...
UM.
WHAT'LL I DO? I HAVE TO SAY SOME-THING.
ANYTHING ...
TH-THIS SILENCE IS WEIGHING HEAVY!!

HE FELL OFF HIS BICYCLE AND GOT A FRACTURE!?
EH...!
IT'S TERRIBLE! KONDOU IS...
GINTA !!
THE OTHER FIRST-YEARS ARE JUST BEGINNERS
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
THAT'S IT, THEN...
I hear that Kondou-kun suffered a fracture
Looks awful for the boys team
IT DOESN'T SEEM SERIOUS, BUT
WE WERE HAVING HIM PLAY DOUBLES, PAIRED WITH SUOU, BUT...
NEXT MONTH'S INVITATIONAL MATCH ISN'T POSSIBLE, IS IT
We'll practice now, and...
It can't be helped!
I WAS SORT, BEING SERIOUS
I'M GONNA SOCK YOU, NATCHAN.
This isn't the time to be making jokes!
WELL, LET'S DO THIS!
I'LL PRETEND TO BE A FIRST-YEAR, AND...

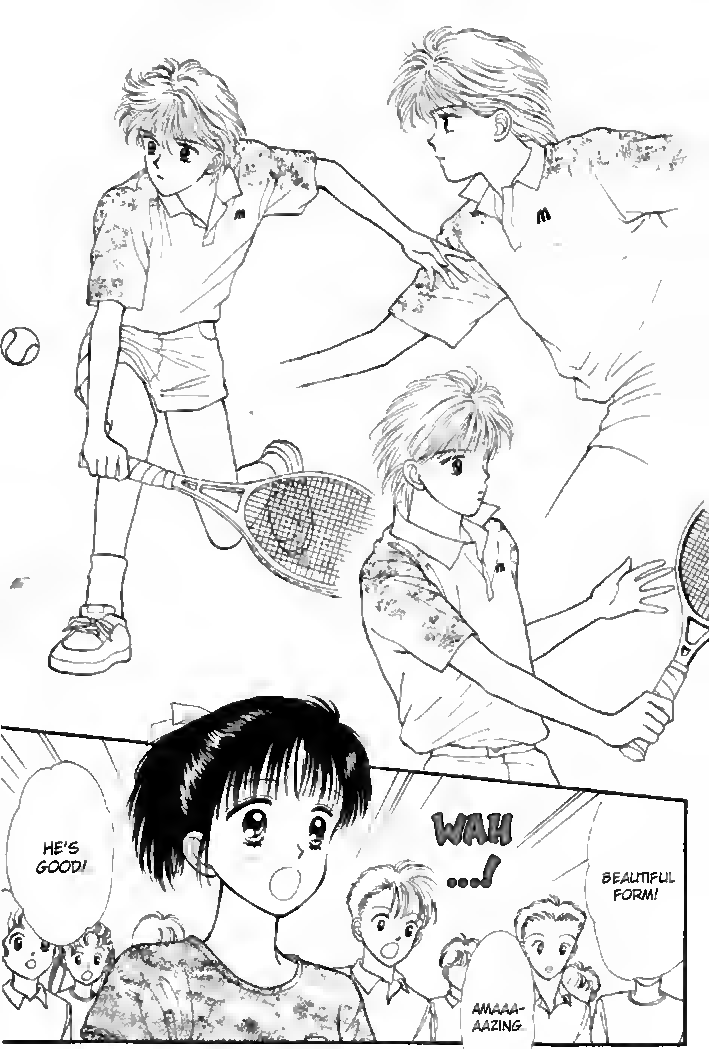
EH? MATSUURA?
NATCHAN, LET'S ASK YUU!
YEAH. HE SAID HE WAS ON THE TENNIS TEAM IN JUNIOR HIGH.


AH..
THAT'S RIGHT! YUU!

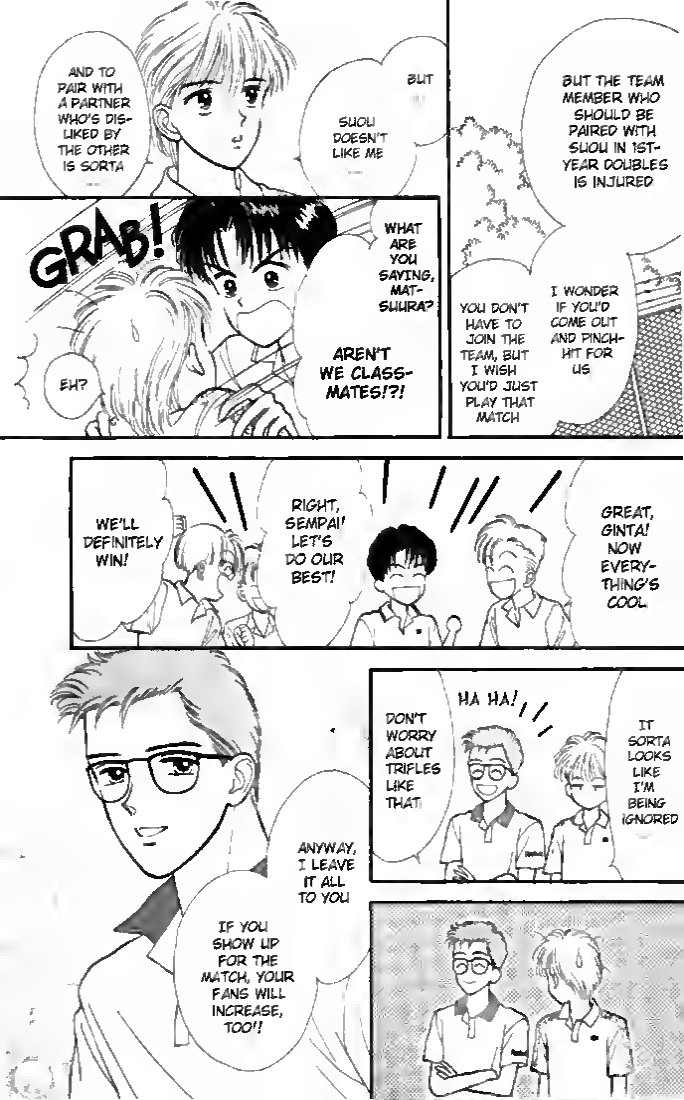
MAYBE HE'S STILL AROUND.
I'LL GO CALL HIM!


MATSUU-RAAA..?

EHHHH!?
Here's a racket
'KAY!?
THAT'S OKAY JUST TRY A FEW STROKES
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
Borrowed from a team member
YOU EVEN MADE ME CHANGE CLOTHES
JOINING THE TEAM IS NOT SOMETHING I'M INTER
THWOCK
HERE IT COMES, MATSUURA!
THWOCK!
OH.!
Good isn't he.


HE'S GOOD!
WAH ...!
BEAUTIFUL FORM!
AMAAA-AAZING

3-2.
2-1.
1-1.
THEN LET'S TRY AND PLAY A 4-GAME MATCH
BEING GOOD AND BEING STRONG ARE TWO DIFF-ERENT THINGS...
HMMPH
Even if all he has is good form, if he can't win...
He beat Natchaaaaan!
WAHHH!
4-2, MATSUURA!
Amaaaazing
RIGHT. IT'S AN ANNUAL TRADITION
SINGLES MATCHES ARE FOR TWO 2ND-YEAR STUDENTS, AND DOUBLES MATCHES ARE TWO 2ND-YEAR AND ONE 1ST-YEAR PAIRS FOR A TOTAL OF 5 MATCHES.
A SCHOOL FESTIVAL PROGRAM INVITATIONAL MATCH?


AND TO PAIR WITH A PARTNER WHO'S DISLIKED BY THE OTHER IS SORTA
BUT SUOU DOESN'T LIKE ME
BUT THE TEAM MEMBER WHO SHOULD BE PAIRED WITH SUOU IN 1ST-YEAR DOUBLES IS INJURED
I WONDER IF YOU'D COME OUT AND PINCH-HIT FOR US
YOU DON'T HAVE TO JOIN THE TEAM, BUT I WISH YOU'D JUST PLAY THAT MATCH
GRAB!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MATSUURA?
EH?
AREN'T WE CLASSMATES!?!
WE'LL DEFINITELY WIN!
RIGHT, SEMPAI! LET'S DO OUR BEST!
GREAT, GINTA! NOW EVERYTHING'S COOL
HA HA!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT TRIFLES LIKE THAT
IT SORTA LOOKS LIKE I'M BEING IGNORED
ANYWAY, I LEAVE IT ALL TO YOU
IF YOU SHOW UP FOR THE MATCH, YOUR FANS WILL INCREASE, TOO!!

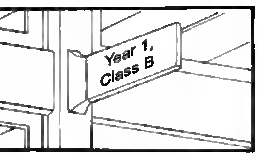
HE REALLY IS A NICE GUY.
THEY SAY HE SEEMS LIKE THE MODEL OF A "NICE GUY." HUH.
NAMURA REALLY IS SUITED FOR TEACHING, ISN'T HE.
HE'S OUR SCHOOL'S MOST POPULAR TEACHER.
FOR SOME REASON, IT MAKES ME NERVOUS ABOUT OPPOSING THAT REFRESHINGLY SMILING FACE...
S-SORRY!
IT'S OKAY, 'CAUSE YOU'RE GOOD AT IT, YUU.
THIS IS YOUR AFAULT!
WHY DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MATCH?
ANYWAY, AS FOR THAT...
ONE MOMENT
MATSUURA!

MANGAPROJECT.CJB.NET

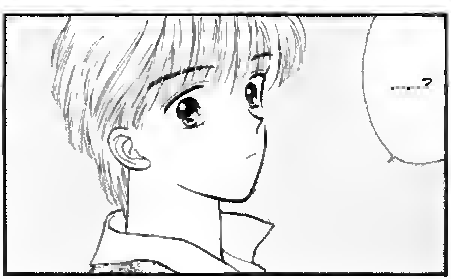
I SEE...
I didn't do this because I wanted to, either
BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

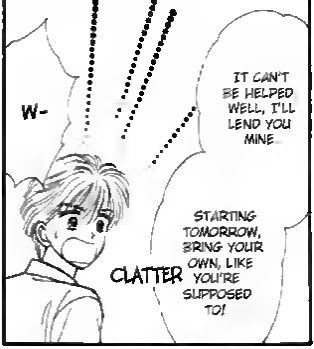
IT'S TRUE,
I DON'T WANT TO PAIR UP WITH YOU.

JUST THIS ONCE, I CAN'T LOSE.
OUR OPPONENT IS A GUY WHO I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO!!

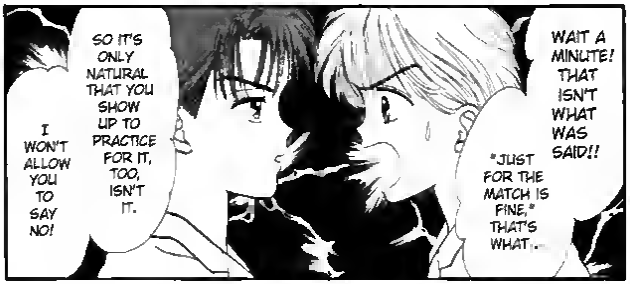

Year 1, Class B

MATSUURA!
DID YOU BRING YOUR TENNIS CLOTHES AND RACKET?


.....?


W-
IT CAN'T BE HELPED WELL, I'LL LEND YOU MINE.
CLATTER
STARTING TOMORROW, BRING YOUR OWN, LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO!

EH? WHY?
THE MATCH ISN'T TODAY, IS IT.
THERE'S PRACTICE.


I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO SAY NO!
SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU SHOW UP TO PRACTICE FOR IT, TOO, ISN'T IT.
"JUST FOR THE MATCH IS FINE," THAT'S WHAT.
WAIT A MINUTE! THAT ISN'T WHAT WAS SAID!!

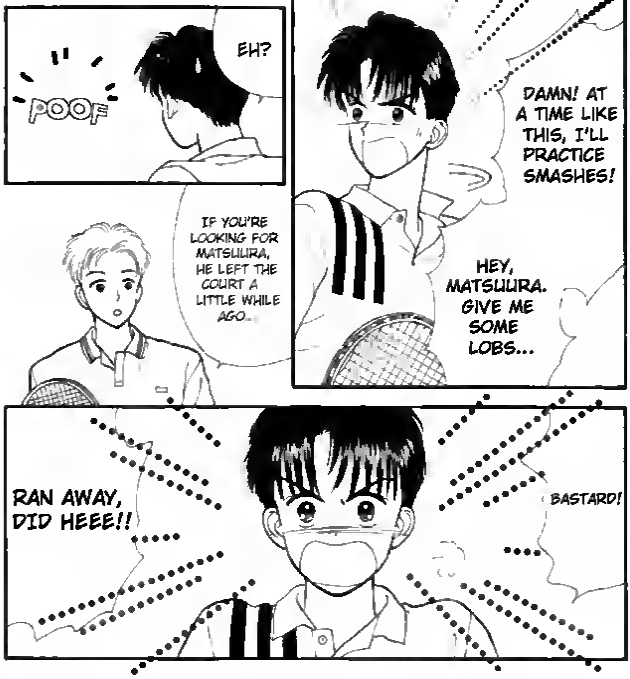
RIP!
OO
NOW THAT YOU'VE ACCEPTED, TAKE FULL RESPONS-IBILITY!!

ALL RIGHT!
TODAY, MY VOLLEYS ARE IN TOP FORM!!
HOW UN-PLEASANT
mutter
IT'S OKAY IF A HOT-BLOODED GUY LIKE THIS BLAZES FREELY BY HIMSELF, BUT HE'S DRAGGING OTHERS INTO IT
mutter
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
NOT REALLY
But..
It's so easy When I pair up with him
Since he covers me so well, I can move with authority

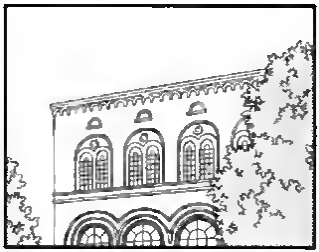
?
A chill
I'M SO MAD
DAMN! WHY IS HE GOOD AT TENNIS AS WELL?
WON'T THEY WIN IF IT'S LIKE THIS?
REALLY, REALLY
IT'S GOING QUITE WELL THE PAIRING OF GINTA AND YUU
They're very much in rhythm
No doubt
DIDN'T EXPECT THIS
Ginta
...

Why didn't you tell me back then?
Why tell me when it's too late?
Ginta, you idiot
SNAP!
FWIP!
I PLAINLY AVERTED MY FACE FROM HIM
OO-WAH I MESSED UUUUUP

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DOOO...
I'M SORRY, GINTA. YOU WERE HURT, RIGHT?
BUT, BUT...
Was soundly hurt
That Miki
Where's the "keep things just as they were"!?
Even when we're talking, she won't look at me
She looks away
When she sees me, she takes on a look of fright
I shouldn't have said something like that
If it was going to be this unpleasant


POOF
EH?
DAMN! AT A TIME LIKE THIS, I'LL PRACTICE SMASHES!
HEY, MATSUURA. GIVE ME SOME LOBS...
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MATSUURA, HE LEFT THE COURT A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
RAN AWAY, DID HEEE!!
BASTARD!

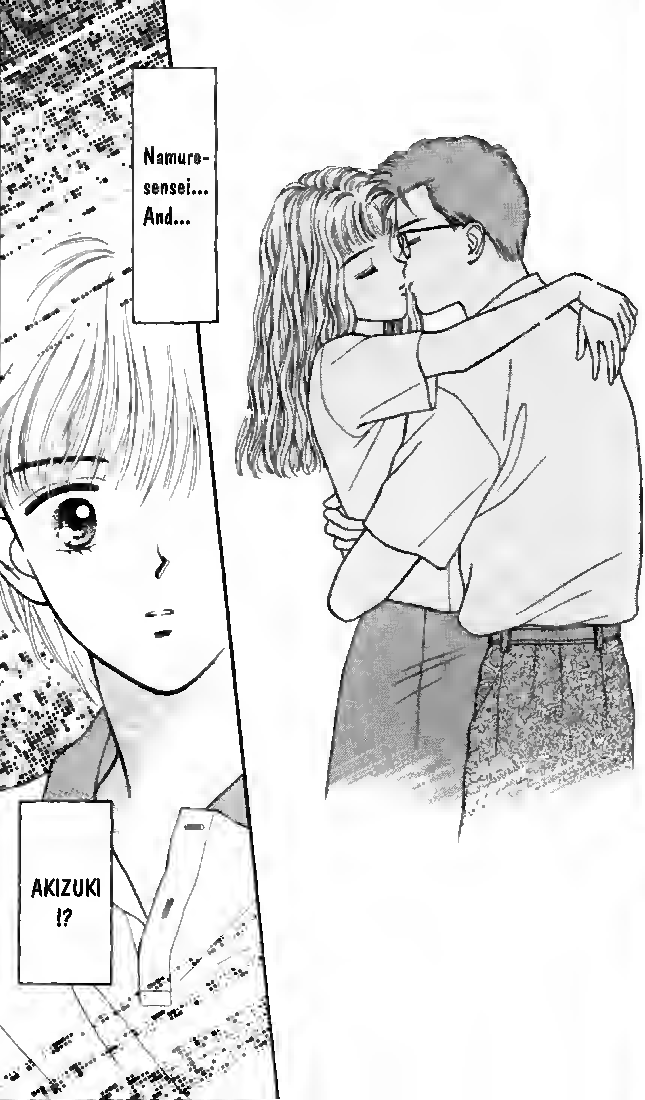
WHERE'D YOU GO, YOU JERK?
MATSUURAAA!



You think I've got time to hang around with you any time soon?
You gotta be kidding
OH NO
SHOW YOURSEEELF!
I'LL JUST COOL OFF HERE FOR A BIT
IT'S ALL RIGHT
NO ONE'S AROUND
SKUEAKKKK
SLAM

THE TWO OF US ARE ALL ALONE
I WAS NEXT DOOR IN THE READING ROOM ALL THIS TIME. NO ONE'S COME HERE
A person who came in through the window is here.
How naive.
I LOVE ...
WELL, IT IS THE BEST PLACE FOR A SECRET RENDEZ-VOUS.
IT'S QUIET, AND PEOPLE DON'T COME HERE.
Quit it, willya. A place like this...
This couple is annoying!

They plan to be here for a while, hm.
I wonder if I should leave through the window...


Namure-sensei... And...
AKIZUKI !?

ママレード・ボーイ

2

吉住　渉

RIBON MASCOT COMICS

ママレード・ボーイ【2】

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吉住　渉

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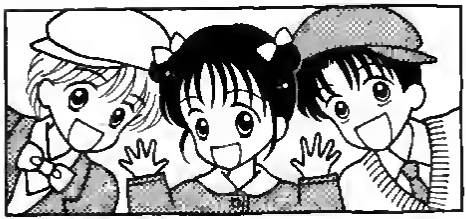
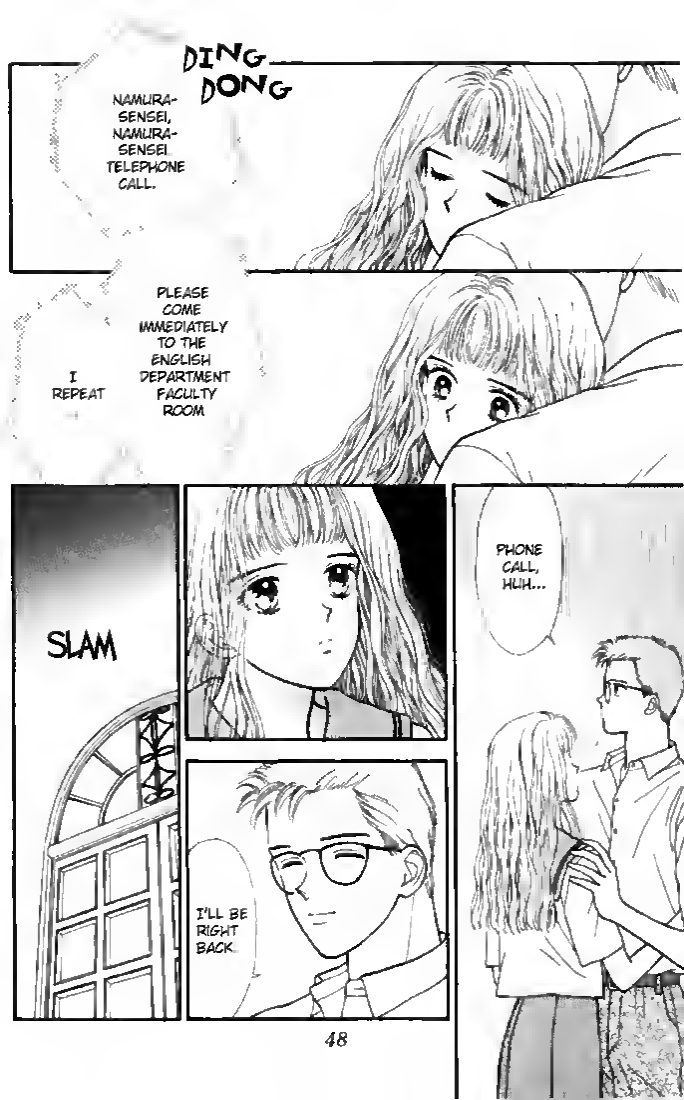
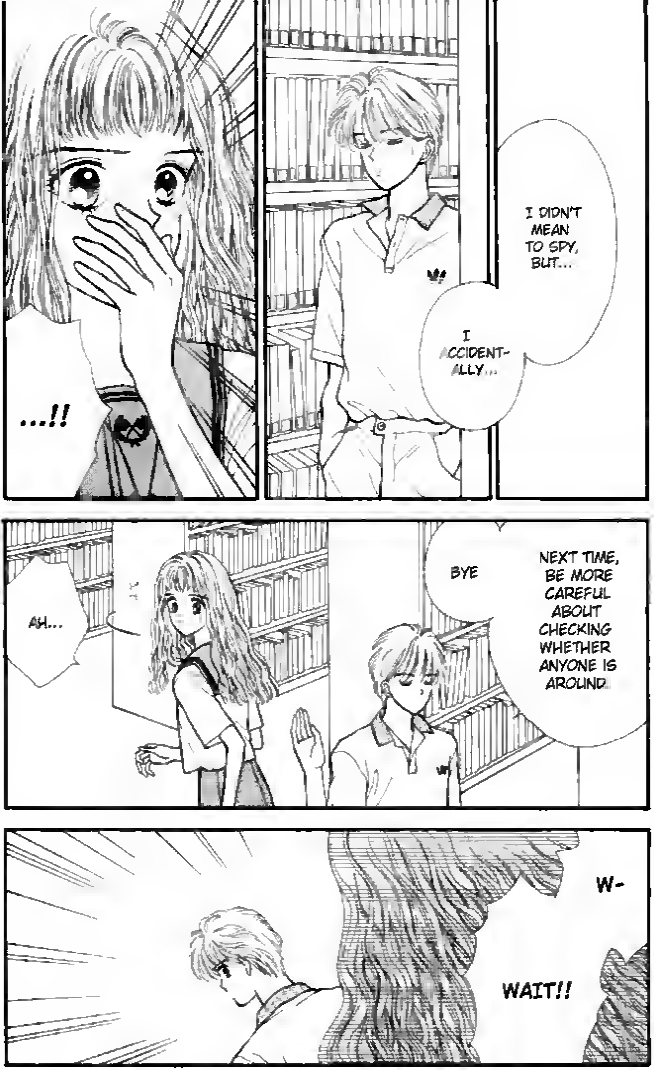
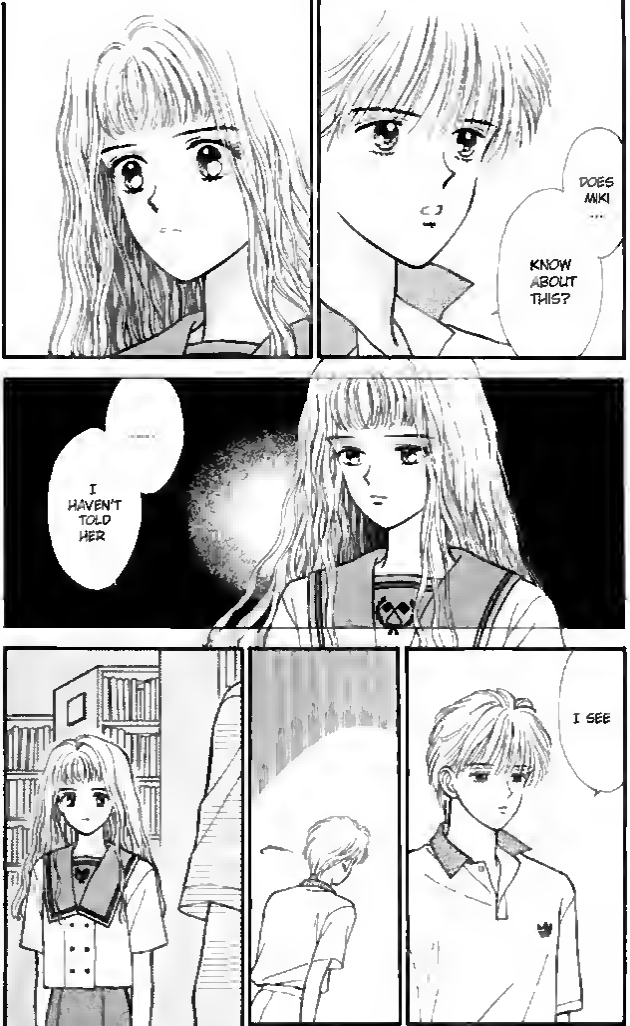



DING DONG
NAMURA-SENSEI, NAMURA-SENSEI TELEPHONE CALL.
I REPEAT
PLEASE COME IMMEDIATELY TO THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY ROOM
SLAM
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
PHONE CALL, HUH...

I'll get out of here now.
sneak
SQUEAK!
So as not to make a sound...
WHO ...!?
IS SOMEONE THERE!?


...!!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SPY, BUT...
I ACCIDENTALLY...
AH...
BYE
NEXT TIME, BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT CHECKING WHETHER ANYONE IS AROUND
W-
WAIT!!

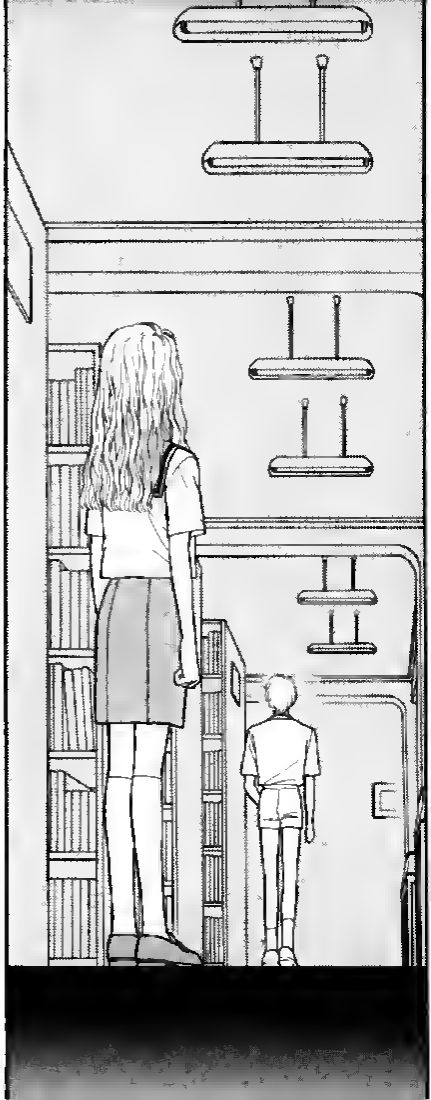
I WON'T TELL.
DON'T TELL ... ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THIS.
PLEASE!
I...
I SEE
YOU WOULDN'T TELL...
I'M SORRY
CAN I ASK JUST ONE THING?


DOES MIKI ... KNOW ABOUT THIS?
... I HAVEN'T TOLD HER
I SEE

FREE TALK ②

It seems like I'm being persistent, but this is a series on gardening (Being from Tokyo, I'm starved for nature.) The other day, I bought a can of flower seeds called, "Paint With Flowers." Pink's in the pink packet, and yellow's in yellow, and inasmuch as the seeds of 10 different kinds of same colored flowers were mixed, it was awfully pretty. Since they were so pretty, sure enough, I bought a can and gave it as a present to Yazawa Ai, who had also wanted to plant flowers. But it was an import, so there are hardly any explanations written and I don't quite know how to grow them. It would be nice if Ai-chan goes ahead and tries, and tells me how, but (^x^) Then I also bought a cultivation set of forget-me-nots. It's for fall planting, so I can't start that yet. But this time, I'll raise them over-protectively with the greatest of care, and I want to make the flowers bloom magnificently.

The seeds of the balloon vine have a heart-shaped pattern and they're pretty. They were given to me before by a fan. Around what month do you plant these, I wonder.



SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING. IT'S TIME FOR THE LUNCHTIME NEWS!
THIS WEEK WE'LL BE DOING A SPECIAL ON THE UPCOMING SCHOOL FESTIVAL
PR MESSAGES FROM EVERY GROUP.
THE FIRST BATTER UP TODAY IS BY THE CLASS OF 3-A.
A SIMPLE DISPLAY AND A SPOT SALE OF DOUJINSHI*
THE SAME AS WE DID IN JUNIOR HIGH
WHAT ABOUT THE TENNIS TEAM?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THE LITERARY ARTS CLUB IS TAKING PART, TOO, ISN'T IT?

* NOTE <I E, AMATEUR-PRODUCED WRITINGS PROBABLY DONE BY MEMBERS OF THE CLUB>

CLICK!
HELLOOO.
...IS 1-B'S MATSUURA YUU-KUN, PRESENTING US WITH THE PR MESSAGE...
THEN, CONTINUING ON, FROM THE BOYS' TENNIS TEAM, WHICH IS PLAYING IN ITS ANNUAL TRADITIONAL INVITATIONAL MATCH...
WE'RE, LIKE...
COUGH!
YES EVENTS HAVE SORT OF TURNED OUT THAT WAY.
IT'S SAID THAT YOU'RE TAKING PART IN DOUBLES AS A BACKUP, AND...
YOU'RE NOT A REGULAR TEAM MEMBER, ARE YOU, MATSUURA-KUN
OHHHH!
He's not denying it!
THAT'S A NO-COMMENT.
AH HA HA HA!
BUT, ARE THOSE THE FACTS?
THERE'S ALSO A RUMOR OF A TRIANGLE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PARTNER SUOU-KUN OVER KOISHIKAWA-SAN...

PLEASE ROOT FOR US!!
SINCE A BIGGER GALLERY WOULD FIRE US UP, PLEASE, EVERYONE, COME AND WATCH.
ANYWAY
THIS ONE'S DYING IN A FIT OF INDIGNATION!!
C-CALM DOWN, MIKI
SIZZLE SIZZLE SIZZLE
Stay cool stay cool
Just as I thought!
If s a triangle relationship he sad
Ginta
MATSUU-RAAA!!
CLATTER
AH..
RATTLE
IT'S MY NATURE THAT I CAN'T REFUSE WHEN ASKED
BUT THEY ASKED ME TO APPEAR
WHAT'S WITH THAT BROAD-CAST JUST NOWWW!?

WITH PLENTY OF PEOPLE YOU GET DIS-TRACTED ...
FOR ME... IF ANYTHING, I CAN CONCENTRATE BETTER WITH A SMALL GALLERY!
WHAT'S WITH THE TRIANGLE RELATIONSHIP ... I MEAN, ANYWAY
Just people who don't even know the rules. Like your fans and stuff!
ADVERTISING LIKE THAT. WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN A HORDE OF ANNOYING RANK AMATEURS COMES TO WATCH!?
EH? BUT ISN'T IT BETTER TO HAVE LOTS OF SUPPORT?
DING!
YOU'RE THE TYPE THAT CRUMBLES UNDER PRESSURE?
AHHH
VROOOOOOOOOM
YOU ASSHOOOLE!!
THAT'S WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT!
CLING CLONG
CLANG CLONG
WHAT ARE THEY PLAYING ...?

WAIT UP, MIKI!
I'M GOING HOME, TOO
OF COURSE!
SPOKEN OF BEING IN A TRIANGLE RELATIONSHIP IN A BROADCAST TO THE ENTIRE SCHOOL
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE LUNCHTIME BROADCAST?
HMMPH!
So calmly
HOW DETESTABLE GRR
AH!
LET THEM SAY WHAT THEY LIKE...
C'MON, IT'S NOTHING
WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS, DENY IT COMPLETELY!!

With Ginta...

Somehow, I've felt awkward since that time.
(I don't like situations like this...)

But then, with Yuu...

But, there's been a small change within me...
To all appearances, things are just as they always were
I'm a bit conscious of him
Maybe I'm realizing that I like him
I CAN'T TRUST SOMEONE LIKE THAT, CAN I ?
IT'S OBVIOUSLY BECAUSE I LIKE YOU
TIONAL MATCH?
DON'T THE GIRLS
HAVE AN INVITA-TIONAL MATCH?
HUH?
What does Yuu...
...think about me?

* NOTE: "ODEN" IS BASICALLY VARIOUS THINGS COOKED IN A FLAVOURFUL BROTH. IT'S WONDERFUL WHEN FOOD ON A COLD OR RAINY WINTERY EVENING. I THINK SOME OF THE INGREDIENTS ARE "DAIKON" (CHINESE RADISH), EGGS, "KAMABOKO" (FISHSTICKS), "KONBU" OR "KOMBU" (SEA WEED/KELP), AND EITHER "HANPEN" AND "CHIKUWA" (BOTH ARE FISHPASTE) AND MAYBE "KONYAKU" (DEVIL'S TOOTH?) ALL IN A SOUP BROTH... AND AS MENTIONED, "KARASHI" (JAPANESE MUSTARD) GOES WELL WITH THE ODEN. (EDITED FROM THE MY GUIDEBOOK?)

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

CLONK

HMM....

AFTERWARDS WE CHEER ON THE GUYS.

THAT'S AN ANNUAL CUSTOM, TOO.

AHHH.

THE GIRLS TEAM RUNS "N ODEN" SHOP.

YOU DON'T LIKE ODEN?

NO, IT ISN'T THAT...

AH... UH-HUH...

HERE YOU GO.

I'LL GIVE YOU A TICKET SO COME AND EAT.

YOU GOT ALL THAT FROM GIRLS?

OF COURSE

It would be weird if a guy gave me any

FUTTER

I SORTA GOT TICKETS FROM SEVERAL GIRLS WHO SAID TO COME AND EAT...

I wander if I can eat this much...

I SEE!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF!
THAT'S OKAY. I'LL TAKE IT.
EVEN THOUGH I OFFERED IT TO YOU, I DON'T WANT IT TO GET WASTED.
EH?
THEN, YOU WON'T NEED THIS, HM.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO EAT THAT HUGE AMOUNT, RIGHT!?
MIKI!
I'LL DEFINITELY GO, I TELL YOU!
WHAM!!

I'LL DEFINITELY GO.
GIVE IT TO ME!
Oden Shop Smash
IF YOU WASTE IT...
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!
THANK YOU.

How weak I get ...
...towards this smiling face of Yuu's.
Sure enough, maybe right now...
Yuu is the one ...
I love...

The 18th Touryou Festival

ODEN SHOP SMASH
Okamoyuki
ODEN
Oden 250 Juice 120

SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.
Oden 250 yen
Juice 120 yen
Oolong tea 120 yen
TWO ODEN, PLEASE!
AND TWO OOLONG TEA, TOO!
OKAAAAY.
ODEN SHOP
MASH

YUU!
WHAT'S THIS? THE WAITRESSES AREN'T WEARING TENNIS OUTFITS?
Aaaawww
AGAIN, SUCH A SILLY
THING
HEY MIKI
I CAME TO EAT!!
A-
ARIMI-SAN
SHE SAID SHE CAME TO HAVE FUN
I RAN INTO HER OVER THERE
Orfen 280 yen
Juice 150 yen
HELLO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE TREAT THE OTHER DAY
SURE
YUU'S CLASSMATE FROM JUNIOR HIGH
THEY LOOK REALLY CLOOOOSE!
IS IT OKAY? TO LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS, MIKI...?
HEY, HEY! WHAT'S THIS!? THAT SUPER-CUTE GIRL!
GRR
I-IT'S NO CONCERN OF MINE!
PEEK
Yeah Okay
Let's go see it together
Say this movie looks like it's fun
The 18th

But, there was no need to bring Arimi-san along!! ♥ of all people
Sure, you certainly did stop by to eat like you promised.
Whot? That Yuu..!
RUMMMBLE
MIKI'S BURNING
YUU, YOU IDIOT!!
I KNOW.
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO CHEER FOR YOU.
I HAVE TO PLAY IN A TENNIS MATCH..
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I CAN'T HANG OUT WITH YOU THIS AFTERNOON.
OHH, I SEE ..
Come to think of it, I haven t asked what the name of the opposing school is
EH ...?
YOUR OPPONENTS ARE FROM SAKAKI SCHOOL, AREN'T THEY?
I HEARD IT FROM A TEAM MEMBER.
THAT'S MY HIGH SCHOOL
EH? HOW COME YOU KNOW?

CLATTER!
YOUR HIGH SCHOOL!?
COULD THAT POSSIBLY MEAN...?
RIGHT.
HE'S HERE.
MAT-SUURA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HURRY UP AND CHANGE!
THE GUYS FROM THE OTHER TEAM ARE ALREADY HERE!!
?
WHAT'S HE MAKING A FUSS ABOUT?
あぶない
HOW DEPRES-SING...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, THIS LATE!?
ACTUALLY, THERE'S A GUY ON THE OPPOSING TEAM, WHO I'D RATHER NOT DEAL WITH...

ON TOP OF THAT, IN 3RD YEAR, I WENT OUT WITH A GIRL ON WHOM HE HAD AN UNREQUITED CRUSH FOR A LONG TIME, SO HE RESENTS ME EVEN MORE...
BUT EVEN THOUGH WE WERE BOTH ON THE TENNIS TEAM, HE COULDN'T DEFEAT ME EVEN ONCE, SO HE CONSIDERS ME HIS ENEMY
HE WAS A CLASSMATE DURING JUNIOR HIGH...
AH PLEASED TO MEET YOU. I'M SUOU
HUH? BACK THEN...
I'M SUZUKI ARIMI
Though we've since broken up...
YEAH THIS GIRL...
YOU HAD A GIRLFRIEND?
ROKUTANDA TSUTOMU.
HIS NAME...
ISN'T...
ANYWAY, IT'S UNPLEASANT, SO I REALLY DON'T WANT TO MEET HIM...

MANGAPROJECT.CJB.NET

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, MATSUURA
THE "GUY WHO I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO," PERHAPS
EH? YOU KNOW HIM, SUOU?
I'VE WANTED TO MEET YOU!
I HEARD A RUMOR THAT YOU WERE GINTA'S PARTNER, SO I'VE BEEN WAITING VERY EAGERLY FOR THIS DAY!
I'LL TAKE THE TWO OF YOU AND BEAT YOU BOTH AT THE SAME TIME!
TSUTOMU!
HE'S HERE
I didn't want to meet you

YOU CAME TO CHEER ME ON!?
AHH ...
ARIMI!
Ahh, how oppressive.
AS ALWAYS, YOU'RE FULL OF FIGHT, HMM...
POP
IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, IS IT!?
WHAT'S THAT!? DIDN'T YOU SPLIT UP...?
WHA!?
BLEAH
NOT YOU. I'M CHEERING FOR YUU.
ARIMI!! ..
BWA HA HA HA HA
NIKI
I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
YOU'RE OUT OF THE QUESTION!
GIVE UP ALREADY!!

YOU CAN TALK BIG LIKE THAT NOW, BUT WAIT TILL LATER!!
THAT'S MY LINE!!
C'MONNN ... WHAT A PERSISTENT GUY.
SHUT UP, SHUT UP!
AHHHH HOW DISGRACEFUL!
SO, HOW ARE YOU TWO CONNECTED?
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU HOTHEADS, BUT
UHH...
COUSIN
WE'RE COUSINS!

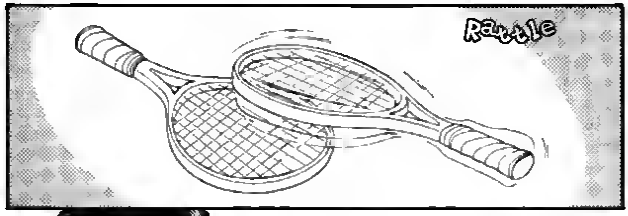
IN WHAT WAY!?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'RE ALIKE
COUSINS, HUH.
WE'RE THE SAME AGE, SO WE'VE BEEN COMPARED AT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING, AND WE'VE BEEN RIVALS SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
NO, JUST JOKING, JUST JOKING.
YOU'RE NOT ALIKE
IN THE WAY YOU FLARE UP ON YOUR OWN, AND DISTURB EVERYONE AROUND YOU
ARE YOU THE PERSON THAT BOUGHT THE PIN FOR ME?
MAYBE YOU'RE THE COUSIN THAT WENT TO WIMBLEDON BEFORE
AH!
SMALL WORLD
Hmmmm?
Ginta's cousin, who has an unrequited love for Arimi-san... hmm
HUH?
UH-HUH
SO, YOU'RE THAT GIRL GINTA GAVE THE PIN TO?

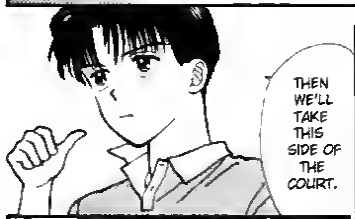
WHA...
TSUT-OMU!!
YOU'RE THE ONE OVER WHOM GINTA GOOFED, AND IT ENDED UP IN A REJECTION EVEN THOUGH YOU BOTH HAD FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER, HUH!!
I SEEEEE
What's the matter?
what? What?
Huhhh?
sort of thing?
BUZZ!
Y-YOU'RE WR...
SHE'S GOING OUT WITH MATSUURA NOW, ISN'T SHE?
HOW COME IT TURNED OUT THAT WAY?
UMM AH
IT WAS TRUE THAT THEY WERE BOTH IN LOVE BACK THEN, AFTER AAAALL
IT'S ABOUT THAT LOVE LETTER INCIDENT DURING JUNIOR HIGH, RIGHT?
W-
Without me noticing, so many people...

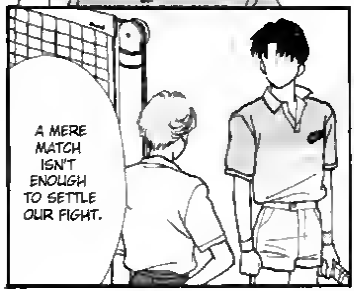
I HATE YOU!
GINTA, YOU BIG MOUTH !!
GLARE!
Yikes
Whoooooooosh!
BWA HA HA HA HA HA !!
WAAAA
SHE HATES YOUUU!
HATE
CLANNNNG

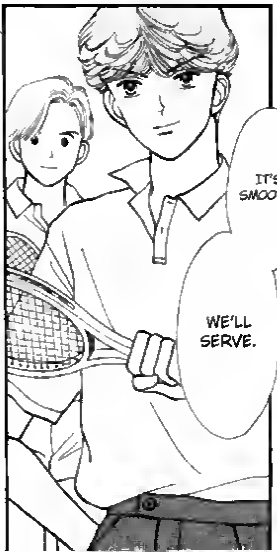
BWAHAHAHAHA!!
Mind your own business!
You...
HA!
SHUT UP!!
WH-
WHAT WAS THAAAT!?
WHICH IS WAAAAY BETTER THAN YOU, WHO ISN'T CARED FOR AT ALL!!
AT LEAST THE BOTH OF US HAD FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT!
puff
puff
WE'LL SETTLE THIS IN THE MATCH!
IT'S NO USE ARGUING ...
puff
puff
HOW STUPID
I CAN'T BE HANGING OUT WITH THEM
SQUAWK
WAIL
SQUAWK
SQUAWK
WAIL

WHIP!
THIS TIME I'LL SETTLE IT WITH YOU AS WELL, MATSUURA!!
AHH YES, YES WHY NOT DO AS YOU PLEASE?
I'M GOING TO CHANGE MY CLOTHES

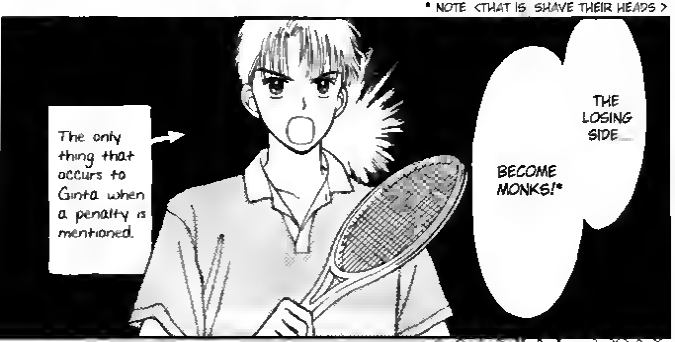

Rumble

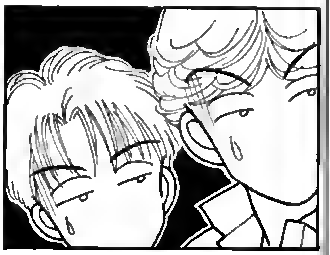

THEN WE'LL TAKE THIS SIDE OF THE COURT.


A MERE MATCH ISN'T ENOUGH TO SETTLE OUR FIGHT.

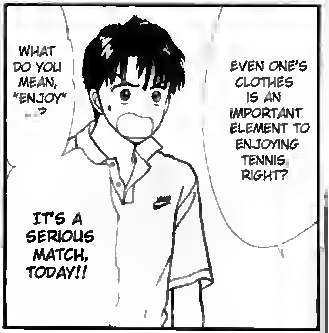

IT'S SMOOTH
WE'LL SERVE.

* NOTE <THAT IS SHAVE THEIR HEADS >





OH, DO I LOOK COOL? THANK YOU.
WHAT'S THIS? WHAT'S WITH THAT TOTALLY COOL LOOK!?
YOU DON'T PLAY TENNIS IN THOSE CLOTHES!!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ENJOY" -?
EVEN ONE'S CLOTHES IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT TO ENJOYING TENNIS, RIGHT?
IT'S A SERIOUS MATCH, TODAY!!

KYAAAA!
KYAAAA!
KYAAAA!
Yuuuuu!

LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH AND GO HOME
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE MATCH
DO YOU UNDER-STAND, MATSUURA !?
Jeez... Why is that guy so popular with girls?
How annoying...
YUUUUUU!!
KYAA!
KYAAA!
CRACK
Do your best, Yuuuu♥
WE'LL GET EACH OTHER'S PARTNERS TO JOIN IN THE BET WE MADE JUST NOW!
A DOUBLE'S PAIR ARE ONE AND THE SAME
GINTA!

WE'LL MAKE THE BOTH OF THEM SHAVE THEIR HEADS!!
WE'RE GONNA WIN!!
DON'T WORRY!
EHHHH !?
ROKU-TANDA!! NOT ME!
But he'll probably play with true seriousness if his hair depends upon it...
It's that guy we're talking about, so maybe he's only thinking, "this match doesn't matter to me, so let's hurry up and finish it."
Shrewd
Perhaps that's okay.
INCLUDE MATSUURA IN THE BET ...?
IT'S SETTLED !!
ALL RIGHT
THEN, WE'LL DO IT LIKE THAT
THE LOSING SIDE SHAVES THEIR HEADS
EH ..?
WAIT A MINUTE A BET, YOU SAY?

YOU HAVE 5 MINUTES TO WARM UP!
Here Ball
YOU'RE JOKING, RIIIIGHT !?
Shave my head ..!?
Sh
PRETTY HARSH JOKE
THE BEST-OF-3-SET MATCH...
SAKAKI SERVING. PLAY!
WAHHH!

SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

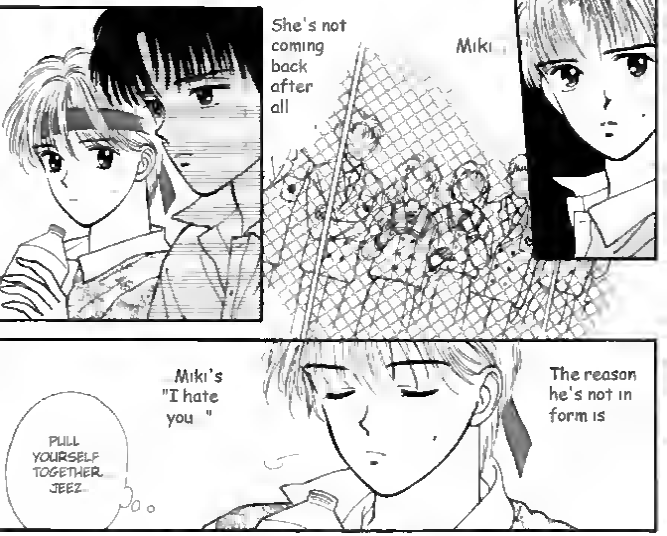
All sorts of things were said by everyone, and it was embarrassing, so
is what I said, and ran away
GINTA, YOU BIG-MOUTH!!
I HATE YOU!

Tennis Court
FIDGET
FIDGET

But it's on my mind
The match What's happening?

THUD
OUT!
OOOO

YUU'S LOOKING GOOD, BUT...
A FLURRY OF EASY MISSES...
IT CAN'T BE THE PRESSURE OF THE BET
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SUGU?
YOU'RE NOT AT THE TOP OF YOUR USUAL FORM AT ALL!
Is entering scores
WE'VE TAKEN THIS MATCH!
WHAT A CAKE-WALK
IF WE CONCENTRATE OUR RETURNS AT GINTA, HE GENER-OUSLY MISSES THEM FOR US...


She's not coming back after all
Miki
Miki's "I hate you"
The reason he's not in form is
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, JEEZ...

THE RETURN'S A FLOATER!
NICE SERVE!
WAH!
WHAAAAP!
THWOCK
SECOND SET IN.

!
LEAP!
IF HE CAN'T SCORE ON THAT, THEN THERE WON'T BE ANY POINTS THEY CAN GET!
A PERFECT CHANCE LIKE THAT!
AHHHHHHHHH
HEY, ROKUTANDA!!
That idiot going to pieces just because of a little argument with her
His form really is worse than bad
THERE'S SO LITTLE FIGHT, THIS IS BORING!
IF YOU MAKE YUU SHAVE HIS HEAD, I WON'T SPEAK TO YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
UWM!

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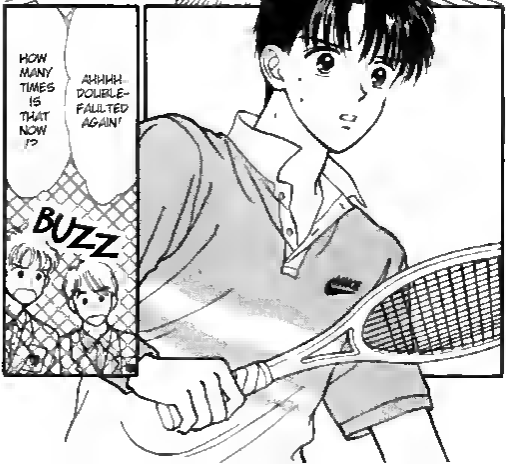
Be more like me, I tell ya No matter what Arimi says, it doesn't affect my play
Sure I'm a bit sad but
I DON'T CARE!
HMMPH
ROKU-TANDA! ARE YOU LISTEN-ING!?

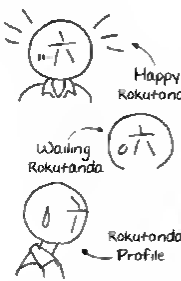
*It means to make yourself concentrate your mind



Damn it!!
Why won't they drop in!?
Why can't I do what I'm always able to do!?!
YOU SHOULDN'T TRY FOR A DECISIVE RETURN ANYWAY, MAKE CAREFUL CONTACT SO THAT YOU DON'T JUST MISS
AND THEN I'LL TRY TO DO SOME-HING
WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS
IF WE DON'T CHANGE THE FLOW OF THIS GAME SOME-HOW, WE'LL LOSE!
I DON'T WANTCHA TA TELL ME THAAAAAT!!
THAT'S SORTA TRUE
THAT WASN'T SAID IN SERIOUS-NESS
IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT WHAT MIKI SAID, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I UNDER-STAND
I'M SORRY

FREE TALK ③

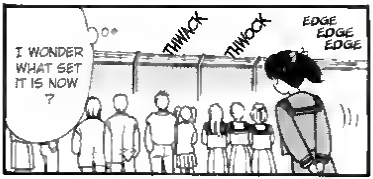
At the time Rokutanda first came on the scene, at the "name" (this means, before drawing on a sheet of the manuscript, on another sheet, I drew a simple sketch with dialog) stage, his hairdo still wasn't determined. So, first of all, I drew the "name" stage on a teruteru bouzu*



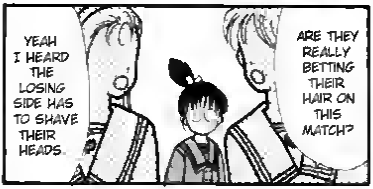
And then, somewhat strangely, I took a fancy to this Rokutanda paper doll, and wanted to draw the real one like this in the manuscript, too! — is what I was carried away by temptation into doing, but I didn't truly have the courage to carry it out. But even after I settled on his hairdo, I still draw Rokutanda as a teruteru during the "name" stage.

*NOTE (A "TERUTERU BOUZU" IS A PAPER DOLL HUNG UP AS A CHARM TO BRING FINE WEATHER. THE "NAME" STAGE IS MANGA JARGON FOR THE ROUGH-DRAFT STAGE DESCRIBED ABOVE.)

A WEAK VOLLEY THAT YOU'RE AFRAID TO MISS...
...WON'T WORK AGAINST MEEEEE!!
THWOC-C-CK
WOWWW!
GAME WON BY SAKAKI.
GAME'S COUNT, 4-0!


I WONDER WHAT SET IT IS NOW ?
THWACK
THWACK
EDGE EDGE EDGE

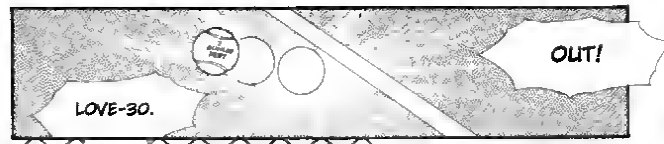
PANTING


YEAH I HEARD THE LOSING SIDE HAS TO SHAVE THEIR HEADS.
ARE THEY REALLY BETTING THEIR HAIR ON THIS MATCH?

MIKI-SAN!
WHAAAAAT!?

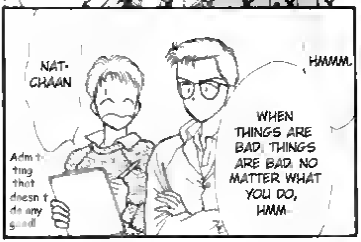
HOW'S THE MATCH GOING?
THEY LOST 1-6 IN THE FIRST, AND IT'S 0-4 IN THE SECOND.
2 MORE GAMES AND THEY'LL LOSE!!
A-
ARIMI-SAN...
WHERE DID YOU GO!?
YOU HAVE TO CHEER THEM ON HARD!!

THAT GUY, SHOU-KUN, IS IN TERRIBLE FORM, AND HE'S REALLY DRAGGING THEM DOWN!!
THAT ISN'T IT.
ARE THEY THAT POWERFUL? THAT OTHER PAIR.


OUT!
LOVE-30.

AHHHH! ANOTHER MISSED VOLLEY!
HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS ALL DAY ...

SHIT!


NAT-CHAAN
HMMM.
WHEN THINGS ARE BAD, THINGS ARE BAD. NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, HMM.

WHAP!
OUT!
LOVE-40.
* This means that after one point, they take the opponent's service game.
IT'S HOPELESS ALREADY.
IT'S BREAK POINT.* AND A TRIPLE AT THAT!
EVEN HIS LOBS AREN'T DROPPING...
Ginta What's wrong?
That isn't Ginta's usual way of playing!!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING
5 MORE POINTS AND I'M BALD?
I don't think the readers would want to see that either!!
The author doesn't want to draw it, either. When I tried drawing a rough sketch, he looked so bad, I could have died.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GINTA !?!
MIKI...!
Damn! She came?
WHAT'S THE MATTER!? DO YOUR BEST!
DO LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO AND COOLLY SMASH IT!!

It's too late now, Ginta
Even if you started straining yourself now, your timing isn't going to be right...
You fell apart that badly
WHAPPP
BOP
OO-WAH ...!
ALLLL RIGHT!!
sQueeZe!

WAAHH
MWM-
WIN

WHAT A SIMPLE-MINDED GUY!
Just because of that girl's cheering

AWWWE-SOME, GINTA!!
ATTA WAY TO GO!

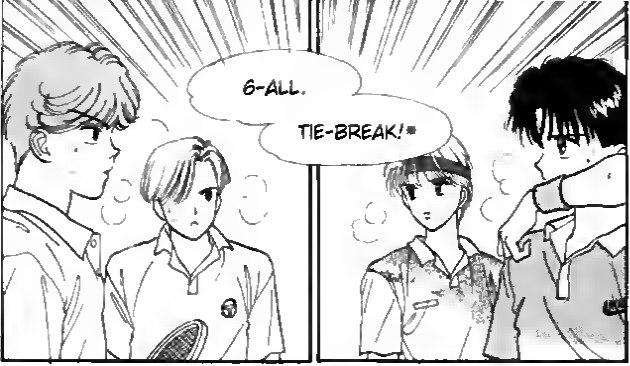
.....
THWACK
GOT IT AGAIN!
NOW, IT'S OUR ADVANTAGE!*
WAH!
HEY, MATSUURA! DID YOU SEE THAT!? MY SUPER SHOT JUST NOW!!
...
IT REALLY IS A MENTAL SPORT, HM...?
NO, IT'S NOTHING.
EH?
I WON'T BE BEATEN EITHER
I'LL SETTLE THIS HERE WITH A SINGLE SHOT!
* This means that after 1 point, they'll take the game

THWOCK!
WHAP!
SWISH
4—2
4—3
4—4
WAH!
SERVICE ACE!
WE HELD THE 5TH GAME!!

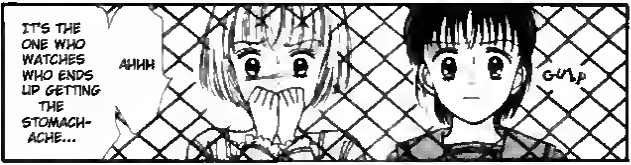
WHUMP
UP UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AGO THEY WERE GOING OUT BY THE WIDTH OF ONE BALL.
ON THE LINE! A RETURN ACE!!
!
WHAP
A BALL OFF THE CORDS!*
GREAT!!
LUCK'S STARTED TO COME OUR WAY!

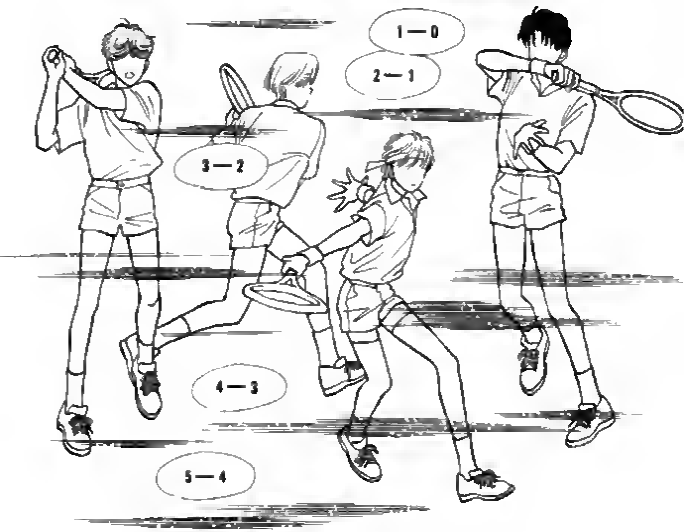
* This means the ball hit the net and dropped in.

WE TOOK THE SECOND SET, 6-4!!
TOP-SPIN LOB!
SUPERB!
KYAAAA!
TO THINK THEY TOOK 5 GAMES IN A ROW
WHEN A TYPE LIKE GINTA IS ON, HE'S UNSTOPPABLE!
YET WHEN HE FEELS DOWN, HE GOES TO PIECES
THWOCK
THINK I'LL LET YOU!?!
WE'LL TAKE THE FINAL ONE!
THWOCK
ALLLL RIGHT!
JUST KEEP GOING IN ONE SMOOTH RUN!
THWOCK



* This means the side that first scores 7 points, leading by 2 or more points, takes the set





MATCH POINT, SAKAK!!
OO-WAHHH!
6 — 5
I'LL SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!!
I'll make the most of this one chance!!
WHAP!
WHAP

WHAP!
WHAPPP
NICE SERVE !!
BUT, THE RETURN'S GOOD, TOO!
WHAP!
I CAN'T LOOK
.....
WHAM
AWE-SOME RALLY ...
THWOCK
!!
WHAM
SWISH!

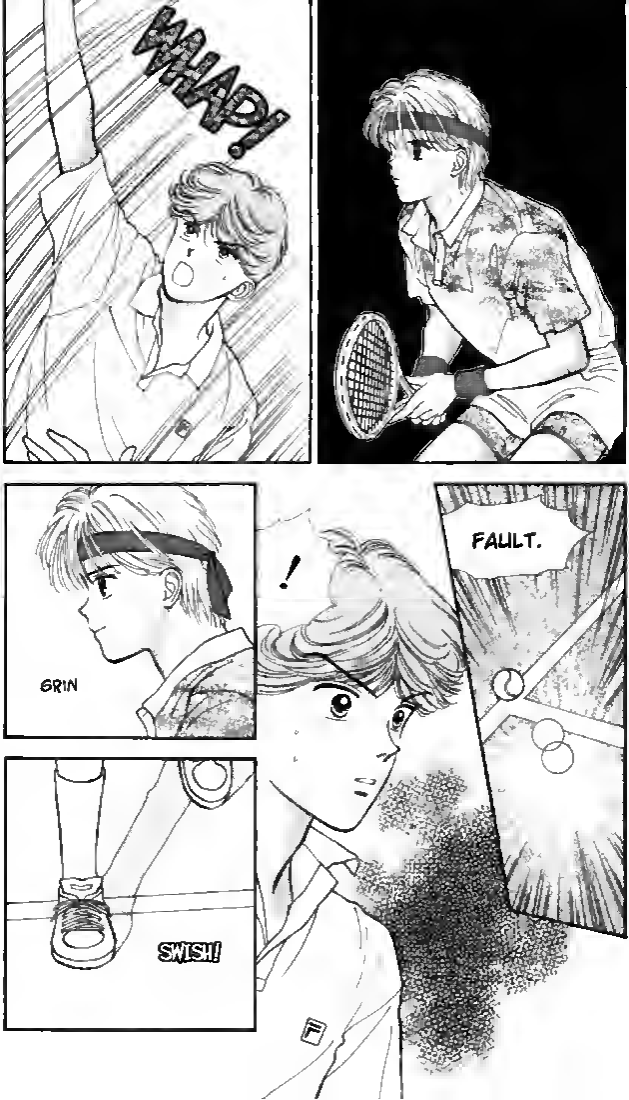
WAHHH!
THAT'S THE CLINCHER ...
A DROP VOLLEY!!
SHIT!
SWISHHHH
NICE CATCH!
BUT THE RIGHT SIDE...
...IS COMP-LETELY OPEN!!

I GOT IT!!
DAMN!!
THWO-O-OCK

HA! HA! HA! HA!
I LEFT THE RIGHT SIDE OPEN ON PURPOSE, TO TEMPT YOU...
STUUUPID. YOU FELL FOR IT!
WOWWW!
NOW, IT'S 6-ALL!
MATSUURA'S GOOD!!
MA...

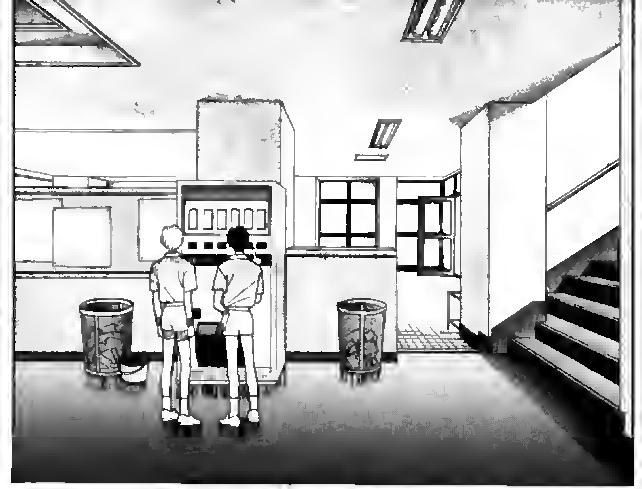
Th-that I
should fall for a simple trick like that!!
THAT'S RIGHT I FORGOT!! THAT MATSUURA IS A JERK WHO DOES THOSE SORTS OF THINGS. HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT FROM WAAAAY BACK
AARRGGHH!
Always falling for it back then
ARE DEFINITELY OURS!!
THE NEXT 2 POINTS
ASSHOLE. DON'T SCARE ME!
MATS-UUURAAA!
SUOU
WHAT'S WITH HIM..?
SURE
S-

So he can look serious like that... hm?
WAHHH!
IT'S GOOD!
MATCH POINT THE OTHER WAY!!
TWOO-
ACK
BIPPERY
BIPPERY
Settle down, Tsutomu.
The serve is mine.
This favors us completely.
We can easily catch up!


WHAP!
GRIN
!
FAULT.
SWISH!

Just because it's second serve, he's standing that far in front...
Don't insult me!!
.....
He shifted position again.
!?
ZIP!
I'll take him deep in the center!
MY TIMING IS...
WH
AM
DAMN!

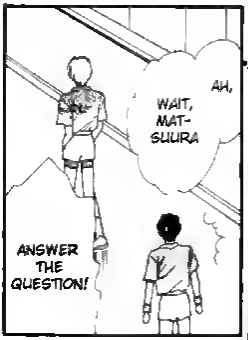
OOWA!!H!
DOUBLE FAULT!
GAME, SET, AND MATCH WON BY TOURYOU.
THE SCORE IS 1-6, 6-4, 7-6...
CLANNG
CLANNG
CLANNG
CLANNG
CLANNG
CLANNG
CLANNG
IT'S THE HAIR OF WHICH I'M PROUD THAT I BLOW-DRY AND SPEND 30 MINUTES ON EACH MORNING!
I HAVE TO SHAVE MY HEAD
CLAN-N-NG
I lost...
To those guys...



PHEWWW!
AHHHH, THAT TASTES GREAT!
NOTHING TASTES AS GOOD AS A SPORTS DRINK AFTER A WIN, RIGHT!?
BUT, THAT WAS A TOUGH MATCH, HUH
FOR A WHILE THERE, I THOUGHT IT WAS HOPELESS!
REALLY
YOU WERE SCREWED UP IN THE FIRST HALF
BUT YOU RECOVERED WELL
NICE FIGHTING SPIRIT!

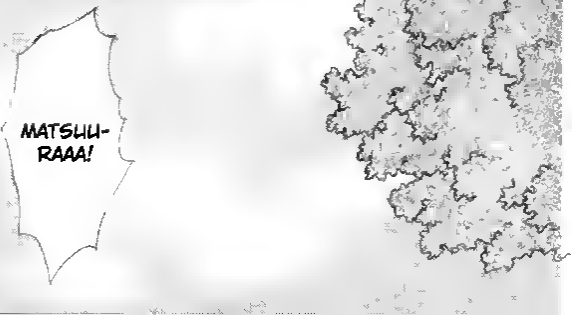
MANGAPROJECT.CJB.NET

.. IT FEELS UNPLEASANT TO BE PRAISED BY YOU!
YOU SAID I WAS BENEATH YOUR CONSIDER-ATION!
THAT WAS A LIE
EH?
THAT I SAID YOU WERE BENEATH MY CONSIDER-ATION WAS A LIE.
HOW COULD I BE UNCON-CERNED?
YOU'RE A GUY THAT MIKI LIKED.
WHISH
...!!
SO.
SURE ENOUGH, MIKI IS THE ONE YOU..


AH,
WAIT, MAT-SUURA
ANSWER THE QUESTION!

NICE SHOT!
Rattle

IT'S NOT FAIR!! DOING THAT AND SMILING IT OFF.
COME CLEAN, WILLYA!


MATSUU-RAAA!

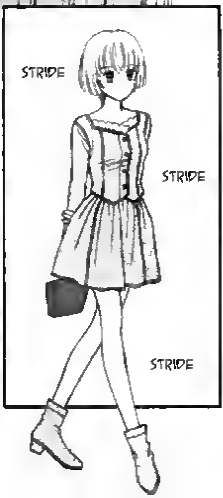
* NOTE <"MARUKOME" IS A BRAND NAME OF A MISO THEIR LOGO CAS WELL AS THE KID THEY USE IN THEIR TV COMMERCIALS> IS A LITTLE KID WITH A SHAVED HEAD PROBABLY MODELED AFTER IKKYUU-SAN, A FAMOUS STORY ABOUT A SMART KID MONK.>

A SPORTS CUT WON'T BE ENOUGH.. SUCK IT UP AND GIVE ME SOMETHING REALLY GOOD, LIKE THAT MARUKOME* KID.
I KNOW...
DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE BET, NOW!
SEND US A PICTURE AS PROOF!!

AH...
WAIP

SOME-DAY, I'LL DEFIN-ITELY GET EVEN WITH YOU
DAMN IIIT!!

YANK!


STRIDE
STRIDE
STRIDE

WAITING FOR YUU AGAIN...
ARIMI ♡

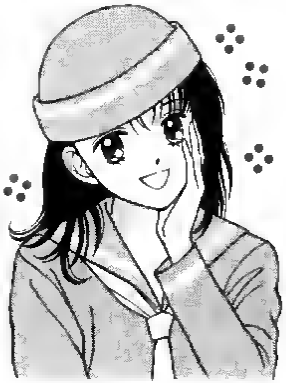
SUOU-KUN
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU

HUH?
I WATCHED THE MATCH JUST NOW AND I WAS QUITE TAKEN IN BY YOU
LET'S RELAX AND TALK SOMEWHERE WHILE HAVING TEA
OKAY?

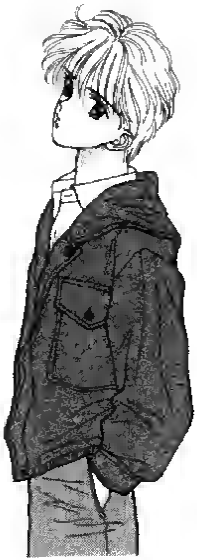
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
WAIT A MINUTE
E-
EXCUSE ME...

EH?
BUT I...
THEN EVERYONE WE'LL BE OFF NOW!

OHH ?
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS? WHAT THE HECK IS THIS, MATSUURA!?!
WHAT IS IT ABOUT GINTA THAT SHE LIKED!?!
DON'T ASK ME.
Why Ginta...?
ARIMIIII!
Ginta is the one that Arimi-san...!?



"Let's relax and talk somewhere"
"I'm quite taken in by you, Suou-kun."
Those two...
I wonder what happened after that?
IT'S ON MY MIND AND I CAN'T SLEEP..!!
AHH, DARN IT!



AH HA HA HA
HE DID IIIIT! ROKU-TANDA!
EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT!
Partner
IT ARRIVED YESTERDAY TOGETHER WITH A LETTER
IT SAID LET'S HAVE A RETURN MATCH BEFORE LONG
NOT ME
W:

IT REALLY GOT HIM GOING WHEN SOMEONE PRAISED HIM JUST A LITTLE BIT, SUZUKI-SAN WAS ALSO SAY...
YES, YES. IT SEEMS TO BE PRETTY POPULAR WITH GIRLS. IT'S NOT THOUGHT OF AS BAD.
AH HA HA
HE'S EASY TO UNDER-STAND...
YEAH
HE ALSO SEEMS TO LIKE IT HIMSELF
HE'S MAKING A "V" SIGN
BUT, IT SUITS HIM
DOESN'T HE LOOK BETTER THAN BEFORE?
AH!
AH, NO,
UH...
SUNDAY
AT A MOVIE
.....
YOU TALKED WITH ARIMI-SAN?
Over the phone?

CLATTER
I TRIED TO REFUSE, BUT THAT GIRL IS PUSHY...
SHE SAID, "IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO DO, IT DOESN'T MATTER, RIGHT?"
THA...! THAT'S NOT IT, MIKI!!
HMMPH
GINTA!
YOU'RE FREE TO GO ANY-WHERE WITH ANYONE YOU LIKE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE EXCUSES TO MEEE!!
FWIP!
MI...! MIKI!!

WHAT'S WITH THAT GINTAAA!!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
... he was at a movie with Arimisaaan!?
THAT'S A DATE THEN...!
IS...
WHAT HE SAID TO ME JUST THE OTHER DAY, YET...
I've liked you all along!!
To think she's switching from Yuu to Ginta all of a sudden...
Arimi-san is being Arimi-san, too.
HE'S THE PITS!!
Just because a girl who's a little cute chases after him, he plays around with her...
I'M NOT REALLY DOING ANYTHING

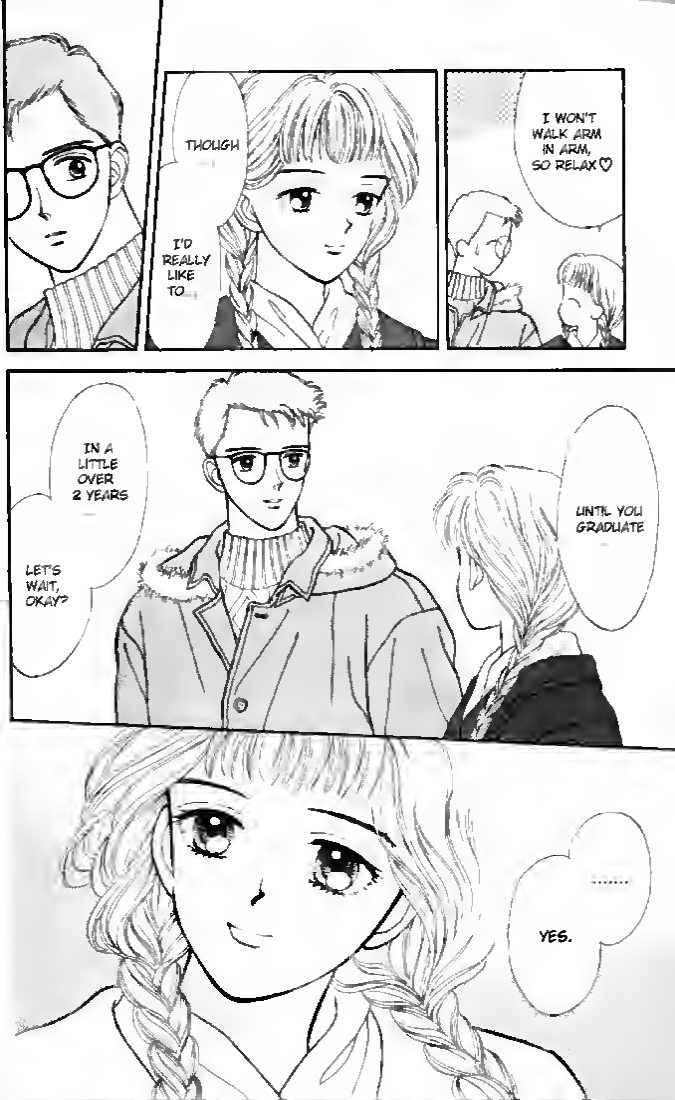
Thought that Arimi-san was someone pursuing something with all her heart.
Back then, I...
I CAN'T GIVE HIM UP AFTER ALL
EVEN NOW, I LOVE HIM
I was a bit moved.
RETURN MY FEELINGS OF BEING MOVED!!
DAMN IIIT!
TWO COFFEE PERSON
AND SO...

COULD IT BE YOU'RE JEALOUS?
MIKI.
.....
GRRRR I'M SO MAD!
IT'S SO IRRESPON-SIBLE OF THOSE TWO!
IS THAT ALL?
WHAAAT!? NO WAY!
I MERELY DISLIKE THE IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR OF THOSE TWO...
BUT SURE ENOUGH, GINTA IS A FRIEND RIGHT NOW.
I WAS CONFUSED AND COULDN'T ANSWER RIGHT AWAY...
WHEN GINTA CONFESSED HIS FEELINGS ...
THERE'S NO WAY I OUGHTA BE JEALOUS.
.....
B-BUT ...

BUT,
YOU AREN'T HAPPY ABOUT GINTA BEING FRIENDLY WITH ARIMI-SAN, ARE YOU?
OR RATHER ...
FRANKLY SPEAKING, YOU DON'T LIKE IT AT ALL, RIGHT?
THEN ISN'T THAT WHAT JEALOUSY IS AFTER ALL?
AH!
THE ONE I LIKE NOW IS...
PROBABLY
YUU...

CLATTER
I'M SORRY I
JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF
I'LL HEAD ON HOME AHEAD OF YOU, 'KAY?
AH
SURE
Even though Ginta is just a friend
Why!?
It's as Meiko says
I'm .
Jealous of Arimi-san.

SENSEI!
SCAN
I SAW YOU FROM A COFFEE SHOP WINDOW, SO I CAME RUNNING AFTER YOU
ARE YOU GOING HOME ALREADY?
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY, HUH?
MEI
AKIZUKI
THAT A TEACHER AND A STUDENT ARE GOING HOME TOGETHER BY CHANCE ISN'T ALL THAT UNNATURAL, IS IT?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING SEEN IN PUBLIC


I WON'T WALK ARM IN ARM, SO RELAX♡
THOUGH
I'D REALLY LIKE TO
IN A LITTLE OVER 2 YEARS
LET'S WAIT, OKAY?
UNTIL YOU GRADUATE
.....
YES.

FREE TALK④

I'm always receiving lots of letters and it makes me awfully happy, but since I can't easily write replies I thought that, on this occasion, I'd like to try and answer a few of the questions from all of you.

□ Please show me the trick to becoming skilled at drawing.

People who write this are amazingly abundant. (For some reason, everyone uses the word "trick.") But you see, although you say trick. If there's such a simple method to turn you into a skillful artist in a flash then I want to learn it too. If anything, maybe just look carefully at the real thing and draw. Don't rely on memory and imagination. I think you should observe something closely, absorb what you can and draw. Well, if you draw continuously, day after day, before long, I'm sure you'll become good

I MEAN, SORRY...
AH! EXCUSE ME...
WE'RE BOTH IN THE SAME GRADE, SO SPEAK TO ME NORMALLY!
WOULD YOU STOP USING THAT POLITE TONE ON ME!?
IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S A GIRL OF SOME DIGNITY.
WELL, FINE... WHATEVER.
But, this isn't the time to be overawed
TODAY I HAVE TO TELL IT TO HER STRAIGHT !!
EXCUSE ME...!
WAIT A MINUTE.
I CAN'T VERY WELL GO OUT WITH Y-
THERE-FORE...
BUT THERE'S A GIRL THAT I LIKE, SO...
I THINK I UNDER-STAND...!

FREE TALK ⑤

[Q1] Is Yoshizumi-sensei a man or a woman? The information in the manga and the table of contents is that the author's a woman, but the author is called "Wataru-kun."

I'm a woman. "kun" is a title of honor that isn't limited to males. It's because the editor decided to call me "Wataru-kun," and I think it's good that it wasn't "chama" or "tan"* Then I often receive letters as well that say, "Until recently I thought you were a guy. I'm sorry," but you don't really have anything to apologize for.

[Q2] Even though I've sent in many drawings, none have appeared at all.

Those, y'know, don't really appear in the order of how good they are, because it's like a lottery, so it's a matter of luck, so, even if you'd like to be chosen, you don't need to feel down, thinking "it was junk, that's why." Maybe if everyone avoids gag faces that are easy to draw, and any closeups of Miki that are easily scaled and copied, and draw Yuu or something, then the drawings will be more apt to appear. Do your best.

*NOTE <"CHAMA" AND "TAN" ARE "CUTE WAYS" OF SAYING THE HONORIFICS "SAMA" AND "SAN">

DON'T BE SO CONCEITED.
I HAVEN'T SAID A SINGLE WORD ABOUT LIKING YOU OR WANTING TO GO OUT WITH YOU OR ANYTHING, HAVE I?
THE ONLY ONE I LIKE IS YUU!

SHE GOT MAD
WHAT DID SHE SAY TO THAT?
YEAH
I WASN'T GOING TO SAY ANYTHING, BUT...
IT SLIPPED OUT
THAT'S GREAT, SUOU-KUN!
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING MORE THAT SHE MIGHT MISUNDERSTAND.
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE GOT ANGRY. THAT'S BAD!
I SEEEEE.
ENOUGH... I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE LIKE THAT!
EH?
Yup, yup
HUH?
MIKI-SAN'S
IS JEALOUS OF ME

R-
REALLY?
Come to think of it...
IT'S TRUE!
IF THE GUY DIDN'T MATTER, SHE WOULDN'T GET MAD OVER WHAT HE DOES WITH ANOTHER GIRL.
THAT MEANS SHE'S MORE OR LESS INTERESTED IN YOU, TOO, RIGHT?
THAT SHE GOT MAD MEANS SHE WAS JEALOUS
SO IF ANOTHER GIRL HANGS AROUND YOU, I THINK SHE'LL WORRY AND HER FEELINGS WILL LEAN TOWARDS YOU
AS I SEE IT...
MIKI-SAN IS ATTRACTED TO YUJI RIGHT NOW, BUT SHE ALSO LIKED YOU IN THE PAST,
SO THERE'S NO REASON TO THINK SHE ISN'T INTERESTED IN YOU AT ALL.
HOW...
WOULD I DO THAT?
THEREFORE, PRETEND YOU'VE GOTTEN CHUMMY WITH ME
The way you put that...
YOU KNOW... EVEN SOMETHING YOU WERE THINKING YOU DON'T NEED ANYMORE, WHEN IT COMES TO GIVING IT AWAY, IT SUDDENLY BECOMES PRECIOUS, RIGHT?

WELL, IF WE OVERDO IT, THERE IS THE DANGER THAT IT WILL TURN OUT THAT WAY
If we don't thoroughly make sure that's where we'll be
...IS HOW I THINK IT'LL TURN OUT...
YUU'S THERE FOR ME!
IT'S FINE ALREADY! I DON'T CARE ABOUT GINTA
I WONDER IF IT'LL GO THAT WELL...?
Not doing anything and just waiting...
That's true...
Is more favorable by far far Matsuura, who lives with her
BUT...
IT'S WORTH A TRY, ISN'T IT?
IF YOU HANG AROUND WITH ME, SUZUKI-SAN, MATSUURA MIGHT GET JEALOUS, TOO
THAT WON'T HAPPEN
I'M SURE...
YUU ...
WON'T BE JEALOUS.

But if I look carefully, isn't this girl awfully cute!?
I hadn't noticed till now
Thick headed
HUH ...
THUMP
TSUTOMU, THAT BABE-CHASING
IF YOU AND MY RIVAL MIKI-SAN STICK TOGETHER, THAT'LL HELP ME, TOO
BUT ANYWAY
What a waste
THAT MATSUURA REJECTED A GIRL AS CUTE AS THIS, HUH
POPULAR GUYS REALLY DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY, HUH
UH-HUH...
THEREFORE LET'S COOPERATE
'KAY?

THWOCK
THWOCK
AH!
OHH ...!
WHAT'S THE TIME?
I WONDER IF WE COULD END THIS SESSION EARLY.
ARGGHH
ANOTHER 45 MINUTES
BRR!
OOO!
SO COOOLD!
HELLO
COULD YOU CALL SHOU-KUN FOR ME?
WHAT'S WRONG? AT A PLACE LIKE THIS...
ARIMI-SAN!
OKAY
AH.

Still can't get rid of the cruel words.
AH, THANK YOU...
FOR ALL YOUR TROUBLES
I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING
EAT IT LATER, 'KAY?
TO SHOW TO MIKI-SAN, RIGHT?
IT'S A STAGE PROP! A STAGE PROP!
AHHHH, I SEE
Detailed performance.
I'm too afraid to look
heh heh!
SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT US
SHE DOESN'T LOOK HAPPY.
DOCILE... OR SIMPLE...
BUT SHE REALLY IS REACTING AS WE'D EXPECTED

GRRR!
THAT'S WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT MIKI!
OH. RIGHT.
SAY, WHY DON'T WE TRY TO BE A BIT MORE INTIMATE?
INTIMATE —?
COME CLOSER TO THE FENCE.
PUT YOUR HAND ABOUT HERE.
AN IMPRESSION LIKE THIS♡
SQUEEZE

What? That Ginta...

..decided to go out with Arimi-san!?

Before listening to my reply, too...

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU GUYS?
ISN'T THAT GIRL YUU'S EX-GIRLFRIEND WHO CAME TO THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL?
THOSE TWO ARE CREATING SOME ATMOS-PHERE

MANGAPROJECT.CJB NET

AH I'M SORRY
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING JUST NOW?
WERE YOU LISTENING CLEARLY TO WHAT I JUST SAID?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE SO SPACED OUT.

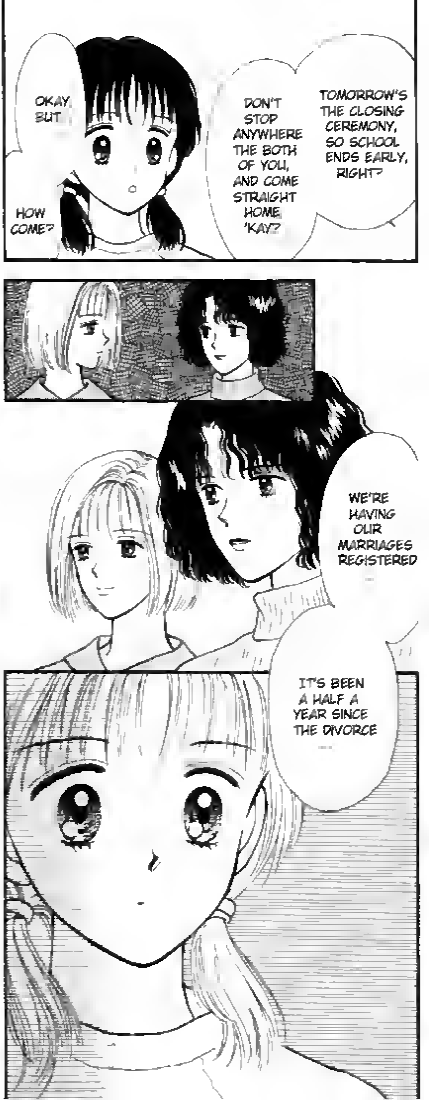
Jin and Yayi are still at work.

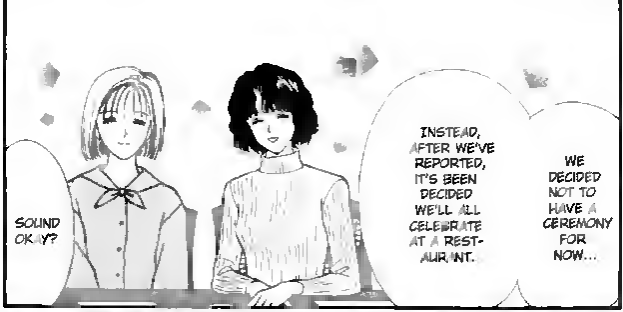
FREE TALK ⑥

[4] Doesn't Ginta look like Kazuya from the wedding scene in Vol. 9 of "Handsome Girlfriend"?

That's a taboo phrase. I get an awfully empty feeling, like "I shouldn't have drawn something like that..," whenever that's said. When beginning a new seris, because it seems there aren't a lot of people who don't adapt new characters with characters of a previous series, Meiko is Miou, Yuu resembles Satoshi, Miki from junior high appears like Aya (this seems to be judged more on hair color and length rather than facial features :), and various other things are said, and this doesn't make me very happy. And so, I now request that when my next series comes out, I'll be pleased if you don't mention this.

Well, I'll see you later in Volume 3, kay? ♥


OKAY, BUT...
HOW COME?
DON'T STOP ANYWHERE THE BOTH OF YOU, AND COME STRAIGHT HOME, 'KAY?
TOMORROW'S THE CLOSING CEREMONY, SO SCHOOL ENDS EARLY, RIGHT?
WE'RE HAVING OUR MARRIAGES REGISTERED
IT'S BEEN A HALF A YEAR SINCE THE DIVORCE

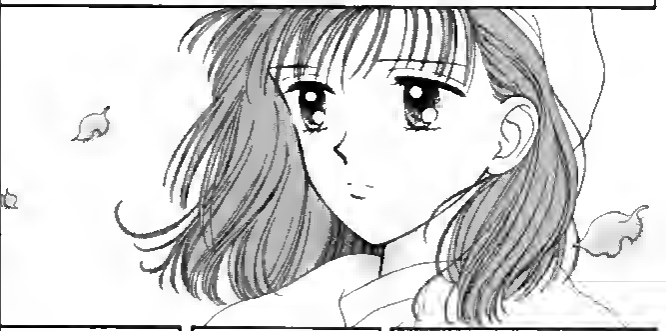

SOUND OKAY?
INSTEAD, AFTER WE'VE REPORTED, IT'S BEEN DECIDED WE'LL ALL CELEBRATE AT A RESTAURANT.
WE DECIDED NOT TO HAVE A CEREMONY FOR NOW...

I see
OKAY
SURE

THIS ...
CONCLUDES THE FORMALITIES
Finally
They're entering names...
Into the family registries

CON-GRATES
CON-GRATES
THANK YOU.
SHALL WE GO, THEN?
IT'S STILL A BIT EARLY FOR OUR RESERVATION
AH, EXCUSE ME...
I'M SORRY!
AND SO, LET ME PASS ON DINNER.
WHAAAT ?
I'M SORRY
I HAVE A LITTLE ERRAND TO...

She didn't tell me anything like that yesterday!
I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG?
Park



HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO BE LIKE THAT?

I'VE BEEN RIGHT BEHIND YOU ALL THE TIME SINCE THE WARD OFFICE...
BUT YOU DIDN'T NOTICE ME AT ALL.
SO THICK-HEADED
YUU!?
WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHY AREN'T YOU AT THE RESTAURANT?
HAVEN'T YOU RE-COVERED YET?
ABOUT THE MARRIAGE SWAPPING
Hup!
...

I'M USED TO MY LIFE NOW...
I'VE ALREADY COME TO TERMS WITH THAT
THAT'S NOT IT
ONLY...
AND WHEN I THINK THAT MAMA ISN'T MAMA ANYMORE...
THEY SAY IT'S JUST A DOCUMENT
BUT NOW, CHIYAKO-SAN IS FORMALLY MY MAMA
HMM...
SNIFFLE
I... FELT JUST A BIT SAD...

Yuu didn't say a thing.
Looking bored and just muttering to himself...
He just...
Kept silent and stayed there beside me...

WELL, THIS IS DELICIOUS NOW, BUT
SURE ENOUGH, I LIKE TERIYAKI CHICKEN THE BEST! ♡
DELICIOUS!
BURGER
...
PRICK
PRICK
IT'S YOUR FAULT!!
AHHHH, WHAT A LOSS!
IF THINGS HAD GONE RIGHT, THEN WE SHOULD HAVE HAD A DELUXE DINNER AT AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT AROUND NOW.
It's na use saying spite-ful things like that...
How I wanted to eat caviar spaghetti
That he truly is sweet...
Is some-thing I knaw per-fectly well.

Thank you...

Yuu...

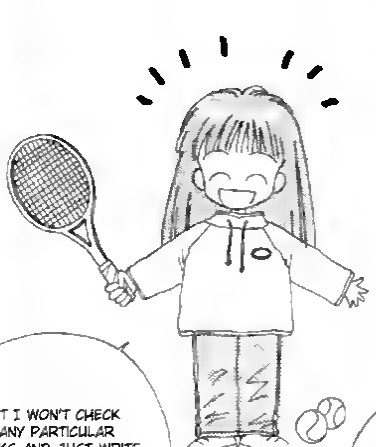
COME DOWNNN!
MIKIII !!
YUUUUU!
SLAM
WE'RE IN WINTER BREAK...
SO LET ME SLEEP IIIN.
BANG
WHAT IS IT? JEEZ...
SO EARLY IN THE MORN-ING!
PLEASE LOOK AFTER THE PLACE, 'KAY!?
THEN, WE'RE GOING...

A TWO WEEK TOUR OF MEMORABLE HAWAII!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? A HONEYMOON
WHERE ARE YOU GOING...?
Is it work?
HUH...?
WHAT'S WITH THE LUGGAGE?
HUH? IS THAT... RIGHT?
I THOUGHT WE HAD TOLD YOU...
WHAAAT!?
WHAT'S THAT? I DIDN'T HEAR ANY TALK LIKE THAT!!
WAIT A...
WE'LL BUY YOU SOUVENIRS, OKAY?
WE'LL BE BACK AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR
WELL, ANYWAY, THAT'S THE WAY IT IS SEE YOU LATER.
SLAM!

MARMALADE BOY [Z] END

you.

FROM WATARU TO YOU II



HELLO YOSHIZUMI HERE.

IN THIS 2ND VOLUME, A TENNIS MATCH MAKES AN APPEARANCE.

AND SINCE I THINK THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW THE RULES, I'LL EXPLAIN A LITTLE ABOU-U-UT IT.

BUT I WON'T CHECK IN ANY PARTICULAR BOOKS AND JUST WRITE THE INFORMATION THAT'S INSIDE MY HEAD... SO EVEN IF I MIGHT BE A BIT WRONG, OR THE EXPLANATION ISN'T SUFFICIENT, PLEASE OVERLOOK IT, 'KAY? ♡

By the way, this isn't softball tennis, it's hardball tennis.

'93 4 30

NOTE (IN "SOFTBALL" TENNIS, THEY USE THIS RUBBER BALL THAT'S MOSTLY MADE OF AIR. THE BALL IS VERY SLOW BECAUSE OF THIS. YOU CAN HIT IT AS HARD AS YOU WANT, AND IT'LL STILL BE MUCH SLOWER COMPARED TO A SHOT WITH A NORMAL TENNIS BALL.)

First, in regards to scoring.

Points are: Love...0 points
15...1 point
30...2 points
40...3 points

Why isn't it 10, 20, and 30? ...is what you might be thinking, and I'm sure there's some basis for this.

If either player gets 4 points and leads by 2 or more points, then 1 game is over.

IN CALLING SCORES, YOU SAY THE SERVICE SIDE'S FIRST.

FOR EXAMPLE, 15-LOVE, LOVE-30, 30-40, 30-30, ETC...

Means that it's advantageous.

ADVANTAGE SUOU!

RIGHT!!

If Gota gets the next point, then...

For example, a case where Yuu and Gota play a match and it becomes deuce...

40-40 is not "forty-all"; instead, you say "deuce."

So that way, it goes on and on until someone leads by 2 points.

ADVANTAGE MATSUURA!

DEUCE!

ADVANTAGE MATSUURA!

DEUCE!

DEUCE!

.. if Yuu gets it, then...

KYAAAA!

I won't be taken so easily

Hehl

Shurt

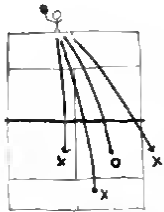
...is what it is, but..

GAME! GAME WON BY SUOU!

If Gota pro ceeds and gets the follow ing one too, then--

WAAAAAAAAAAHHH!

IF YOU MISS YOUR 2ND SERVE AS WELL, IT BECOMES A DOUBLE FAULT, AND YOUR OPPONENT GETS 1 POINT, SO YOU HAVE TO BE SURE TO PUT YOUR SECOND SERVE IN



Sizes in the diagram are awfully haphazard.

That's why a second service is usually weaker in power than a first one.

INCIDENTALLY, YOU CAN HIT UP TO 2 SERVES

EVEN IF YOU MISS YOUR FIRST SERVE (FAULT), IT'LL BE OKAY IF YOU DROP IN YOUR 2ND SERVE.

Service alternates after each game.

WHEN YOU GET YOUR SERVICE GAME YOU'VE KEPT SERVE, AND YOU SAY YOU BREAK SERVE WHEN YOU GET YOUR OPPONENT'S SERVICE GAME

In tennis (in matches of a certain high level of standard), the side that serves has a decided advantage, so while you make sure you get your service games, that means whatever you get in your receiving games is also important.

TIE-BREAK!

But, in cases where true abilities are evenly matched, it isn't easy to lead by 2 games. "6-6, 6-7, 7-7, 8-7, 8-8..." There is the possibility that, no matter how much time passes, it won't come to an end.

And so, in order to reduce the time...

...is the system that was created.

IN CALLING OUT THE GAME SCORING... FOR EXAMPLE, 3-LOVE, 4-1, 5-5, YOU SAY THE WINNING SIDE'S SCORE FIRST AND SO, AFTER THAT,

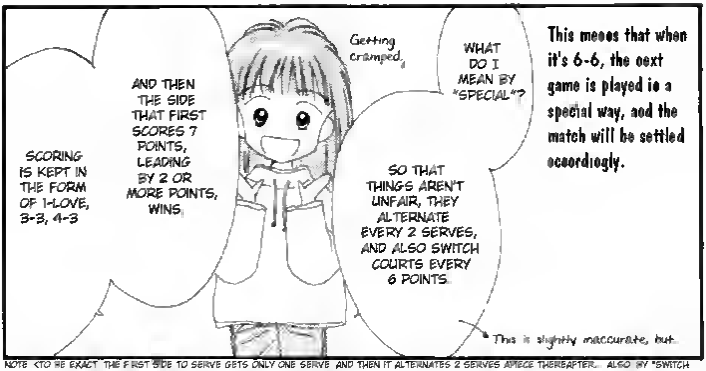
And then the side that first scores 6 games, leading by 2 or more games, takes that set.

YOU TACK ON WHO IS WINNING AND WHAT SET IT IS.

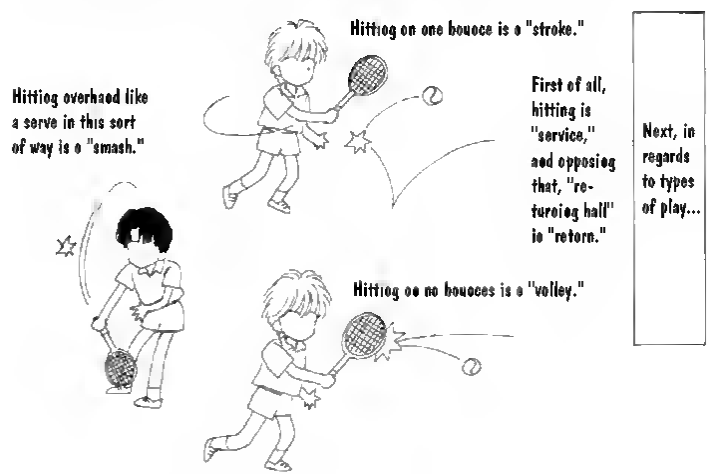
"Probably a little uncertain."

SUZUI LEADS IN FIRST SET, AND SUCH

NOTE <IN ACTUALITY WHAT GINTA'S SAYING UP ABOVE IS UNTRUE DURING A MATCH, THE GAME SCORING IS CITED WITH THE "SERVING" SIDE'S SCORE GIVEN FIRST SO YOU "DO" HEAR SCORES LIKE 0-4 3-5 ETC WHEN THE MATCH IS OVER, THE ENTIRE SET SCORES ARE LISTED WITH THE MATCH WINNER'S SCORE LISTED FIRST. HENCE "GRAF WINS 6-2 4-6 6-3.">


SCORING IS KEPT IN THE FORM OF 1-LOVE, 3-3, 4-4
AND THEN THE SIDE THAT FIRST SCORES 7 POINTS, LEADING BY 2 OR MORE POINTS, WINS.
Getting cramped.
WHAT DO I MEAN BY "SPECIAL"?
SO THAT THINGS AREN'T UNFAIR, THEY ALTERNATE EVERY 2 SERVES, AND ALSO SWITCH COURTS EVERY 6 POINTS.
This means that when it's 6-6, the next game is played in a special way, and the match will be settled accordingly.
This is slightly inaccurate, but

NOTE: <TO BE EXACT, THE FIRST SIDE TO SERVE GETS ONLY ONE SERVE, AND THEN IT ALTERNATES 2 SERVES APIECE THEREAFTER. ALSO, BY "SWITCH COURTS," OUR MANGA-KA MEANS TO SWITCH SIDES OF THE COURT. BUT THAT'S PROBABLY OBVIOUS TO YOU ALL.>


Hitting on one bounce is a "stroke."
First of all, hitting is "service," and opposing that, "returning ball" is "return."
Hitting overhead like a serve in this sort of way is a "smash."
Hitting on no bounces is a "volley."
Next, in regards to types of play...

Hitting on the opposite face of the racket is a backhand stroke/ backvolley.

Hitting on this face of the racket is a forehand stroke/forevolley.

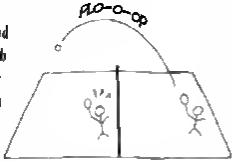
With strokes and volleying, respectively, there are 2 types... "fore" and "back".

There are 2 ways of hitting... single-hand and double-hand.

You can hit the ball double-handed with amazing power, but your footwork must be good (because the racket won't reach as far as single-handed.) With pro tennis players,

It is often the case that they use one hand for forehand shots and two hands for backhand shots (Agassi, Ivanisevich, etc.), but Seles and others use two hands for both and their shots are awfully powerful.

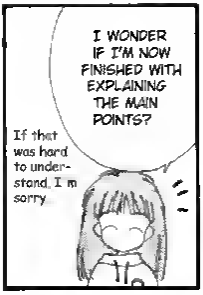
What's called a topspin lob is a lob that was hit with a powerful spin put on it, so that it bounces high, and it's awfully hard to get.

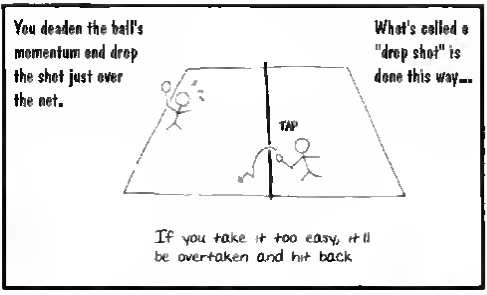


Getting back to the basis for this talk... What's called a "lob" is something like this.

If you hit it too deep it will go out, and if too shallow, you'll fall victim to a smash... Putting up a good lob is difficult.

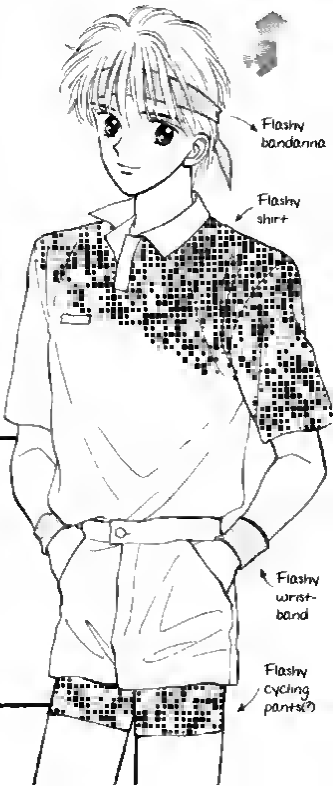
Powerful double-hands are nice, too, but I like those who hit one-handed backhands that are beautiful in form (Graf and Edberg and such).



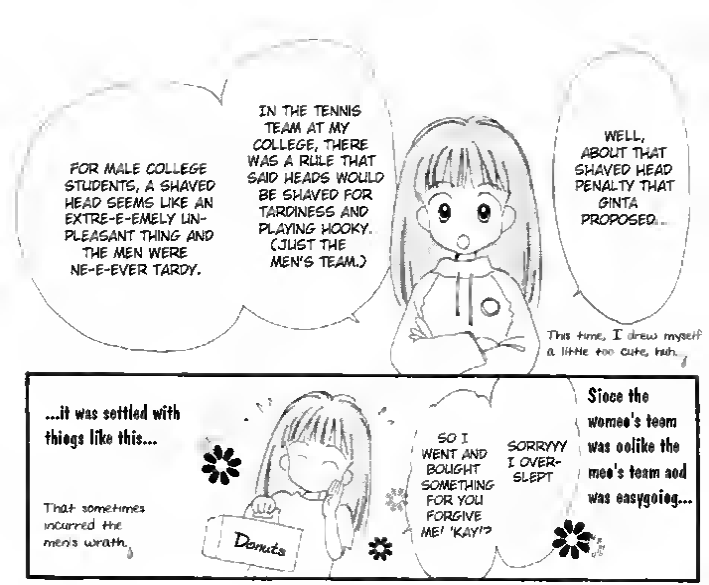

You deaden the ball's momentum and drop the shot just over the net.
What's called a "drop shot" is done this way...
TAP
If you take it too easy, it'll be overtaken and hit back

I drew this look of Yun's with the intention of doing a "Matsuoka Shuzou look."

Since Matsuoka-san often appears in commercials too, I think that a lot of people know him, but he's a super-person who has the best tennis skills in Japan, a good face, stylish clothes, and on top of that, is the son of the president of Toho, the motion picture company. There is quite a lot standing in his way, but I want him to do his best and go higher and higher.



After all, I'm glad when Japanese players play an active role. Lately, the women have become strong, and I'm absolutely delighted.


FOR MALE COLLEGE STUDENTS, A SHAVED HEAD SEEMS LIKE AN EXTRE-E-EMELY UN-PLEASANT THING AND THE MEN WERE NE-E-EVER TARDY.
IN THE TENNIS TEAM AT MY COLLEGE, THERE WAS A RULE THAT SAID HEADS WOULD BE SHAVED FOR TARDINESS AND PLAYING HOOKY. (JUST THE MEN'S TEAM.)
WELL, ABOUT THAT SHAVED HEAD PENALTY THAT GINTA PROPOSED...
This time, I drew myself a little too cute, huh.
...it was settled with things like this...
That sometimes incurred the men's wrath.
Donuts
SO I WENT AND BOUGHT SOMETHING FOR YOU FORGIVE ME! 'KAY!?
SORRYYY I OVER-SLEPT
Since the women's team was unlike the men's team and was easygoing...
IT WAS A MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE...
IN A ROW!
This "team failure," which hardly ever happened... That is, until I was in 3rd year, when the team fell from 3rd to 4th division!
IT ISN'T FAIR.
HOW COME WE HAVE TO DO THIS?
There were about 40-50 guys on the men's team.
But being that no matter how earnestly they exerted themselves, or whether or not they were tardy or absent, there was a pitfall... that if they dropped to a lower division in league play, there was an unfair custom that ALL THE TEAM MEMBERS, from 1st year to 4th year, would jointly SHAVE THEIR HEADS...

Even though, in the beginning, he was disliked...

incidentally, ever since Rokutanda shaved his head, his popularity zoomed!

HMPH

There wasn't a single person who wasn't unwilling to shave his head... But there were those who manfully had their hair cut short, and those who were poor losers and deceptively got sports cuts... It was amusing to see the various kinds of humor nature.

Heh heh!

To make sure...

THEREFORE, THAT GINTA AND YUU SHOOK HANDS WASN'T BECAUSE THEY WERE BEING EMOTIONAL OVER THEIR VICTORY AND DIDN'T MEAN TO, BUT THAT IT'S CUSTOMARY.

SHAKE HANDS

IN DOUBLES MATCHES, YOU FIRST SHAKE HANDS WITH YOUR PARTNER, AND THEN WITH YOUR TWO OPPONENTS.

OH! THAT'S RIGHT. WHEN IT'S OVER, IT'S CUSTOMARY TO SHAKE HANDS WITH YOUR OPPONENT

SHAKE HANDS

SOB SOB

I COULDN'T GO AFTER ALL...

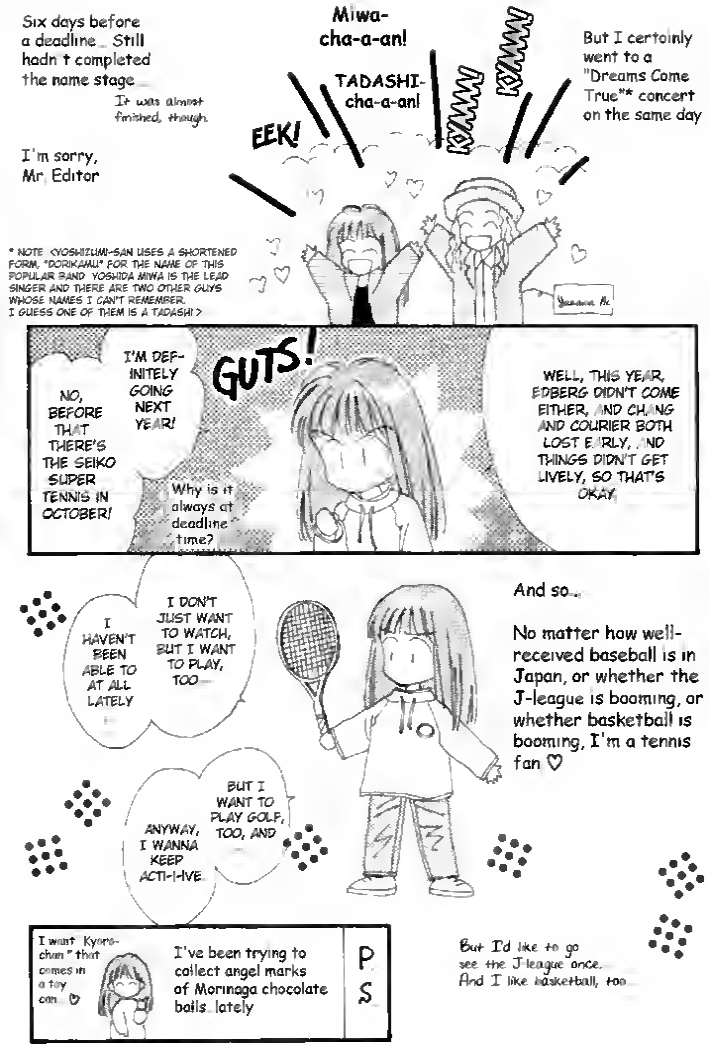
BECAUSE OF WORK

JAPAN OPEN

AT ARIAKE COLISEUM.

Changing the topic...

This year as well I bought tickets to the April 9th quarterfinal matches of the Japan Open but...


Six days before a deadline... Still hadn't completed the name stage...
It was almost finished, though.
I'm sorry, Mr. Editor
Miwa-cha-a-an!
TADASHI-cha-a-an!
KYAAAA!
KYAAAA!
But I certainly went to a "Dreams Come True"* concert on the same day
EEK!
* NOTE: YOSHIZUMI-SAN USES A SHORTENED FORM, "DORIKAMU" FOR THE NAME OF THIS POPULAR BAND. YOSHIDA MIWA IS THE LEAD SINGER AND THERE ARE TWO OTHER GUYS WHOSE NAMES I CAN'T REMEMBER. I GUESS ONE OF THEM IS A TADASHI?
GUTS!
I'M DEFINITELY GOING NEXT YEAR!
NO, BEFORE THAT THERE'S THE SEIKO SUPER TENNIS IN OCTOBER!
Why is it always at deadline time?
WELL, THIS YEAR, EDBERG DIDN'T COME EITHER, AND CHANG AND COURIER BOTH LOST EARLY, AND THINGS DIDN'T GET LIVELY, SO THAT'S OKAY.
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO AT ALL LATELY
I DON'T JUST WANT TO WATCH, BUT I WANT TO PLAY, TOO
ANYWAY, I WANNA KEEP ACTI-I-VE
BUT I WANT TO PLAY GOLF, TOO, AND
And so...
No matter how well-received baseball is in Japan, or whether the J-league is booming, or whether basketball is booming, I'm a tennis fan ♡
I want Kyono-chan" shirt comes in a toy com... ♡
I've been trying to collect angel marks of Morinaga chocolate bails lately
P S
But I'd like to go see the J-league once... And I like basketball, too...
Fin